

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA

*[Aiken, South Carolina]*

HEARING # 10-11113

MAY 6, 2010

6:00 P.M.

DOCKET NO. 2009-489-E:

SOUTH CAROLINA ELECTRIC & GAS COMPANY - Application for Increases  
and Adjustments in Electric Rate Schedules and Tariffs

TRANSCRIPT OF TESTIMONY  
AND PROCEEDINGS

VOLUME 3

HEARING BEFORE: Elizabeth B. 'Lib' FLEMING, *CHAIRMAN*,  
John E. "Butch" HOWARD, *VICE CHAIRMAN*; and COMMISSIONERS  
David A. WRIGHT, G. O'Neal HAMILTON, Swain E. WHITFIELD, and  
Randy MITCHELL.

ADVISOR TO COMMISSION: F. David Butler, Esq.

STAFF: Jocelyn G. Boyd, Interim Chief Clerk/Administrator; James  
Spearman, Ph.D., Executive Assistant to Commissioners; Philip Riley  
and William O. Richardson, Advisory Staff; Patty Sands, Executive  
Staff; and Jo Elizabeth M. Wheat, CVR-CM-GNSC, Court Reporter.

APPEARANCES:

***K. CHAD BURGESS, ESQUIRE, and MATTHEW W.  
GISSENDANNER, ESQUIRE,*** representing SOUTH CAROLINA  
ELECTRIC & GAS COMPANY, APPLICANT

***SCOTT ELLIOTT, ESQUIRE,*** representing the SOUTH  
CAROLINA ENERGY USERS COMMITTEE, INTERVENOR

***TOM CLEMENTS,*** representing himself, INTERVENOR

***NANETTE S. EDWARDS, ESQUIRE, and JEFFREY M.  
NELSON, ESQUIRE,*** representing THE OFFICE OF REGULATORY STAFF

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***PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA***

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P R O C E E D I N G S

**CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** At this time I'd like to welcome all of you here tonight. We're looking forward to hearing what you have to tell us, and I certainly appreciate the wonderful facility that we have here. This is quite a star for the community, to have this technical school here. And I appreciate the fact that we're able to hold this hearing here.

I'm Lib Fleming; I'm Chair of the Public Service Commission. And I would like to introduce the other Commissioners. Commissioner O'Neal Hamilton is on my far left, Commissioner David Wright is next to him. Commissioner Butch Howard is our Vice Chairman. And on my far right, Commissioner Swain Whitfield and Commissioner Randy Mitchell.

We also are very pleased that we have Chairman Roland Smith with us tonight, who serves in the House of Representatives, serves you all very well there. And if you would like to say a few words, we would love to hear from you at this time.

**REP. ROLAND SMITH:** Thank you, Madam Chairman. I appreciate Commissioner Mitchell recommending that we have a hearing in this area. It's

1           important to the citizens, and you see that they're  
2           here, a number of senior citizens, and I guess that  
3           contributes to the reason they're here because most  
4           of them are on lowered income, fixed salaries --  
5           fixed income.

6           Number one, I want to say thank you for coming  
7           and holding the hearing here in this beautiful  
8           auditorium at Aiken Technical College. This is in  
9           the House District that I represent, but I also  
10          represent all of Aiken County as Chairman of the  
11          Delegation. I'm here to welcome you and to say to  
12          you please -- and I know you've got a hard task  
13          before you, but I would ask one thing: In  
14          factoring out your decision, take into account what  
15          the citizens have to say to you tonight, because,  
16          you know, they are very concerned, and rightly so.  
17          Thank you.

18          **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Thank you, very much, for  
19          being here. At this time I'm going to turn it over  
20          to Attorney David Butler for the reading of the  
21          docket and to tell us a little bit about the  
22          process for the evening.

23          **MR. BUTLER:** Thank you, Madam Chairman and  
24          members of the Commission. My name is David  
25          Butler, and I am Senior Counsel to the Commission.

1 This is a local public hearing for Docket No 2009-  
2 489-E, South Carolina Electric & Gas Company's  
3 application for increase in rates and charges. In  
4 just a moment I'll be calling the names of those  
5 who signed up to come forward to the podium here  
6 and give their statement to the Commission  
7 regarding the rate increase proposed by South  
8 Carolina Electric & Gas.

9 Tonight's hearing is a part of the overall  
10 process that the Commission goes through when  
11 considering a rate case. Just to give you a brief  
12 summary of the process, the company files an  
13 application for its rate changes. Notice of that  
14 request is then published to the public, and in a  
15 case like this one, the Commission sets up one or  
16 more evening public hearings so that the public may  
17 be heard regarding any concerns about the company's  
18 application.

19 Also, beginning on Monday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, at 10:30  
20 in the Commission's hearing room at 101 Executive  
21 Center Drive, Columbia, South Carolina, the  
22 Commission will continue the process by hearing  
23 from, among other witnesses, accountants and  
24 engineers who have analyzed the company's rate  
25 increase request. And on the evening of that same

1 day, beginning at 6 p.m., the Commission will hold  
2 another evening public hearing such as this one at  
3 the same location -- that is, at the Commission's  
4 headquarters -- to provide further opportunity for  
5 the public to be heard regarding any concerns about  
6 the company's application.

7 So before I go on, at this time I want to  
8 recognize briefly some of the litigants in this  
9 rate case matter. First off, I want to recognize  
10 South Carolina Electric & Gas, and would ask that  
11 they please stand and introduce themselves.

12 **MR. BURGESS:** Good evening, Madam Chairman,  
13 members of the Commission. My name is Chad Burgess  
14 and with me tonight is Matt Gissendanner. We are  
15 members of the South Carolina Bar, and we appear  
16 before you on behalf of SCE&G. I'd also like to  
17 state that we have other members from SCE&G present  
18 here tonight. There are folks from our Customer  
19 Services Department, there are also folks from our  
20 Communications Department, as well as senior  
21 management. We're here to listen to our customers'  
22 concerns, and we have got in the foyer some  
23 customer service representatives who can answer any  
24 questions or address any concerns our customers may  
25 have.

1                   Finally, Madam Chairman, I would point out  
2                   that at the initial night hearing we placed a  
3                   continuing objection on the record, and that was  
4                   allowed to continue in the second night hearing,  
5                   and we would ask that be continued in this one, as  
6                   well.

7                   **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** So noted.

8                   **MR. BURGESS:** Thank you.

9                   **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** We're happy to have you  
10                  here with us tonight.

11                  **MR. BUTLER:** All right, thank you. I also  
12                  note that we have at least two intervenors or  
13                  representatives of intervenors in this case  
14                  tonight. These are either individuals or  
15                  organizations who have chosen to attend the full  
16                  hearing in Columbia on May 24th, participate,  
17                  cross-examine witnesses, and present their own in  
18                  some cases. First, I have Mr. Tom Clements, who is  
19                  all the way in the back, who is an individual  
20                  intervenor, and we also have Mr. Scott Elliott, who  
21                  represents the South Carolina Energy Users  
22                  Committee, who is with us tonight. I believe  
23                  that's all the intervenors we have at this time.

24                  We also have tonight representatives of the  
25                  Office of Regulatory Staff, and I would ask at this



1 time if they would stand and introduce themselves.

2 MS. EDWARDS: Good evening. My name is  
3 Nanette Edwards, and I'm an attorney representing  
4 the South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff, and  
5 here with me is Jeff Nelson, also an attorney  
6 representing our agency.

7 I would also like to add that we have  
8 representatives here from our agency, specifically  
9 Chad Campbell. Chad, if you could stand up?

10 MR. CAMPBELL: [Indicating.]

11 MS. EDWARDS: Our agency is responsible for  
12 receiving consumer services complaints regarding  
13 regulated utilities such as South Carolina Electric  
14 & Gas. If you have issues -- billing, customer  
15 service issues -- I would recommend that you  
16 approach Chad Campbell either during or after the  
17 hearing, and we will stay a few minutes after the  
18 hearing to take any such concerns or questions  
19 regarding the utility and its application here.

20 One brief moment, I would like to respond to  
21 the SCE&G attorney regarding the continuing  
22 objection. Office of Regulatory Staff would also  
23 likewise, as we stated in the prior night hearings,  
24 like to state that we reserve our right to respond  
25 to any objection to the testimony.

1                   **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Thank you. So noted.

2                   Happy to have you all with us tonight, as well.

3                   **MR. BUTLER:** Okay, thank you. Now, continuing  
4                   with the discussion of the procedure briefly,  
5                   tonight's hearing is about you. The court  
6                   reporter, Ms. Wheat, who is seated at the end of  
7                   this table, will record everything you say, and you  
8                   will be sworn in. When I call your name, please  
9                   come up to the podium in front of the Commission,  
10                  state your name and address after being sworn in,  
11                  and please speak directly into the microphone if  
12                  possible, so that we can hear you. Ms. Wheat is  
13                  charged with getting down every word that you say  
14                  for the record of this case.

15                  This is your opportunity to place your  
16                  thoughts regarding the proposed rate increase on  
17                  the record in this matter. Now, this is not the  
18                  time for you to ask the Commissioners questions.  
19                  The Commissioners cannot, by law, discuss this case  
20                  with you or answer questions regarding the case.  
21                  But as you've already heard tonight, we have  
22                  representatives with us from both the company and  
23                  from the Office of Regulatory Staff, and they are  
24                  present and can answer any questions that you may  
25                  have at the conclusion of the hearing.

1           The Commission will continue to gather  
2           evidence in this case until the conclusion of the  
3           May hearings. Thereafter, the Commission will then  
4           consider all the information that it gets from all  
5           of its hearings and will render a decision on the  
6           matter on or before July 20, 2010.

7           I did want to mention that we will give  
8           everyone a chance to speak that wants to be heard,  
9           but that the Commission has requested a time limit  
10          of five minutes on each speaker. Please recognize  
11          that you can really help us if you tell us what you  
12          want to tell us within a short period of time. And  
13          as you've noted, just for your own aid, we have a  
14          clock up front that will sort of show you where you  
15          are in your presentation time. But we would ask  
16          that you limit yourself to five minutes, please.

17          I did want to tell you that when you do come  
18          up and speak, you will be subject to questions from  
19          the parties and the Commissioners, and possible  
20          objections from the parties, but please remain at  
21          the podium for a moment after giving your statement  
22          so that the Commissioners or the lawyers may ask  
23          you any questions that they want to ask you.

24          And I wanted to mention that if you speak  
25          tonight, you'll not be permitted to speak at other

1 evening hearings or at the Commission's offices in  
2 Columbia, unless otherwise directed by the  
3 Commission. The usual rule is one bite at the  
4 apple. And further, if you filed as an intervenor  
5 rather than as a public witness in this case, we  
6 would ask you to hold your testimony until the May  
7 24th daytime hearing in Columbia.

8 One final thing that I wanted to mention to  
9 you: If a person before you happens to say what  
10 you want to say and you think for some reason they  
11 have covered it, if you want to decline to speak  
12 when your name is called, that's fine. But, you  
13 know, please, the Commission and staff are here to  
14 hear what you have to say, the company and ORS are  
15 here to hear what you have to say, and we will be  
16 glad to listen to you, so feel free to come on up  
17 when your name is called.

18 And at this time, Madam Chairman, I think we  
19 are ready to go ahead and start with the names of  
20 those who want to be heard.

21 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. If you would  
22 call the first person.

23 **MR. BUTLER:** Okay. I'd like to call Lawrence  
24 J. Murphy please.

25 **MR. MURPHY:** Bear with the old man, please.

1 [Laughter]

2 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Take your time.

3 **MR. MURPHY:** I can't get out of these seats.

4 [Witness sworn/affirmed]

5 THEREUPON came,

6 **L A W R E N C E J . M U R P H Y ,**

7 who, having been first duly sworn/affirmed, testified as  
8 follows:

9 **WITNESS:** My name is Lawrence Murphy. I go by  
10 Larry. I live in Clearwater, South Carolina, on  
11 Edgewood Drive, in Woodridge.

12 And, of course, I feel very strong about  
13 coming here and commenting about the rate increase.  
14 And I was hoping to hear from South Carolina  
15 Electric & Gas to make sure that they are not  
16 talking about laying off people if the rate  
17 increase does not go through. We've got a lot of  
18 fine young men in this area that work for South  
19 Carolina Electric & Gas, and even though I think  
20 we're paying enough, I don't want to see them laid  
21 off or lose their job. So I will go from there.

22 Edward Jones is a financial company here in  
23 the North Augusta/Aiken County area, and I received  
24 some information from them on SCANA, which most of  
25 you already know that's the parent company of South

1 Carolina Electric & Gas. And I want to read you  
2 some things here, and so I'll try to stay within my  
3 five minutes.

4 "With a dividend yield above the industrial  
5 average, we believe SCANA pays an attractive  
6 dividend. In addition to this attractive yield, we  
7 believe the company will increase its dividends  
8 near 2 percent annual rate for the next five years.

9 "The various areas needing investment going  
10 forward include electric transmission lines, power  
11 plants, gas lines, and water utility  
12 infrastructures. These investments will be needed  
13 to address the effects of aging infrastructure, as  
14 well as to meet demands related to national  
15 customer growth. The investment needs to be  
16 several hundreds of billions of dollars over the  
17 next two or three decades. It is this spending  
18 that we believe will accelerate the future earnings  
19 growth of many utilities.

20 "The financial position of the regulatory  
21 overview is that in October of 2008 the company was  
22 awarded a \$9.1 million natural gas increase and  
23 also received approval for a regulatory mechanism  
24 that will allow rate adjustments for changes in  
25 customer usage not only in South Carolina, but

1 North Carolina. In September 2009, the company was  
2 granted a \$22 million electric rate in South  
3 Carolina. We view these outcomes as constructive  
4 from an investor viewpoint." It didn't say a  
5 homeowner; an investor viewpoint. "In January  
6 2010, SCANA filed for a \$197.6 million rate  
7 increase in South Carolina. The company requested  
8 that the increase be phased in over the next 18  
9 months, July 2010, January 2011, and July 2011. We  
10 anticipate a reasonable ruling from regulators on  
11 this case later this month.

12 "We believe SCANA has a solid financial  
13 position. The company is currently rated BBB+,  
14 BAA2," stuff I don't understand. "We anticipate  
15 future cash flow will be used primarily to pay down  
16 debt, bringing the company's debt-to-capital into  
17 the low 50 percent range over the next few years."

18 This is a financial report by a company that  
19 is selling stock for South Carolina Electric & Gas,  
20 or SCANA. As a homeowner, I don't own any of this.  
21 I'm going to buy some, because it looks good, and  
22 I've got my retirement in the stock market. It  
23 took a hit today, \$1,000 down today. If you own  
24 any stock and you don't know it, you better go  
25 outside and cry. But -- thank you, I'll be with

1           you in a minute.

2                       [Laughter]

3           **WITNESS:** The only thing is -- that I'm asking  
4           is, give us homeowners consideration on keeping  
5           this down. It is a blessing not to have huge power  
6           bills in the summertime before we even cut the air  
7           conditioning on. Thank you. Any questions?

8           **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Any questions?

9           **MR. BURGESS:** We have no questions of Mr.  
10          Murphy.

11          **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right.

12          **MS. EDWARDS:** No questions, thank you.

13          **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Commissioners?

14                       [No response]

15          **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right, no questions.  
16          You may be seated.

17          **WITNESS:** Thank you.

18                       [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

19          **MR. BUTLER:** I'd like to call Robert W. Cone.  
20          Robert W. Cone, please?

21                       [Witness sworn/affirmed]

22          THEREUPON came,

23                       **R O B E R T   W .   C O N E ,**  
24          who, having been first duly sworn/affirmed, testified as  
25          follows:



1                   **WITNESS:** I'm Robert W. Cone from Aiken, South  
2                   Carolina, 318 Hopeland Farm Drive.

3                   I'm an ex South Carolina Electric & Gas  
4                   employee from the '60s. I'm a stockholder, a  
5                   little bit. And I'm a ratepayer. So, I don't  
6                   recommend -- I don't request anything for me. I  
7                   just want to ask the power company to quit telling  
8                   us how to caulk windows and minor things, whenever  
9                   they don't do their in-house homework. Aiken  
10                  County does not have any management supervision in  
11                  being. The union runs it, and I have proof. Back  
12                  in 1960-something, whenever I was with them, they  
13                  decided -- the power company -- to divide the  
14                  resources in Aiken City. And they sent me to North  
15                  Augusta, which I agreed to go, no problem. And  
16                  their crews, some of the men came, and women came,  
17                  and they were going to do this for efficiency. And  
18                  back in '62, things were cheap. It's not cheap  
19                  now. Just the other year, what did they do? Boom  
20                  [indicating]. Aiken loses all their support, gives  
21                  the city the facility for \$10, and now we've got to  
22                  wait for service from Langley or wherever. It may  
23                  take an hour, two hours. Of course. I know nothing  
24                  is supposed to be instantaneous in this day and  
25                  age. But, I think the work ethic in the power

1           company needs to be jacked up, and some supervision  
2           provided. I know -- it's hard to say it to my ex-  
3           company, and my stock market today is probably in  
4           the ditch -- which, you know, I don't need it. I'm  
5           just here for people that need it. I can make my  
6           living like I've always done.

7           They had an underground failure to my house in  
8           the last few years ago, and the union came out, and  
9           of course, they knew me. And payback was in store,  
10          so it took a man about three minutes to say, "Well,  
11          it's an underground failure," and I knew that  
12          because I'd already tested it. He called for help.  
13          Help came, with no thumper. That stopped it. They  
14          called Beech Island for a thumper, finally got  
15          here. And finally got the power on that night. It  
16          was good service. But, my goodness, the labor and  
17          the trucks.

18          And then they put it in halfway -- they put  
19          the power line temporarily in the top of the meter  
20          box with no protection from rain. So, that's me a  
21          problem. If it rains, the meter socket blows out,  
22          the panel blows out, maybe my house burns down.  
23          But they don't have a problem, they just ride off  
24          and leave the open hole in the meter socket. I  
25          thought sure he'd be back tomorrow, but they

1           didn't. It took over a month. Of course, I  
2           protected the meter socket with an umbrella and a  
3           paper sack and a plastic bag, but that's the kind  
4           of payback they give you. I had to call Columbia  
5           to get it fixed.

6           And I really need more than five minutes.  
7           They -- this man, a spokesman for the company,  
8           Scott Griggs, back in February, the 15th, says the  
9           company is really tight. They haven't laid off  
10          anybody, haven't furloughed anybody, and we've  
11          reduced our contractors. Well, that ain't true.  
12          The contractors have been all over Aiken since this  
13          date, and putting in poles, and cutting trees, and  
14          trimming trees all over Aiken County. So, this is  
15          not exactly right. Somebody needs to get it  
16          straight. Do they need a rate increase, or do they  
17          not?

18          The thing came out yesterday where the power  
19          company has done some figuring, and they're going  
20          to start some kind of program to give you some  
21          credits or something to save \$2 or \$3 million.  
22          Well, we've got credits now. You can go buy a  
23          refrigerator for \$2,300, and you get maybe \$200.  
24          Well, who's got that kind of money? People are  
25          unemployed and hungry. They got medicine bills.

1 I'm lucky, I don't have that. I worked and saved  
2 my money, but I didn't put it all in South Carolina  
3 Electric & Gas.

4 But I think they really need to look at it.  
5 And they're setting poles by the jillions, by  
6 contract, in Aiken, and leaving their old poles  
7 there. So, now, rather than an old ugly pole,  
8 you've got two ugly poles. How can you sell a  
9 house when you got four old poles on two corners?  
10 I mean, real estate is down, in case you don't know  
11 it. And I'm not in real estate, either.

12 So, all I'm asking you, increase production.  
13 There's some good people in the power company, but  
14 there's some loafers. Thank you.

15 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Thank you. Just a minute.  
16 Are there any questions?

17 **MR. BURGESS:** No questions.

18 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Ms. Edwards.

19 **MS. EDWARDS:** No, thank you, sir.

20 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Commissioners?

21 [No response]

22 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** No questions. You may be  
23 seated.

24 [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

25 **MR. BUTLER:** I'd like to call Ann Dicks,

1                   please. Ann Dicks?

2                               [Witness sworn/affirmed]

3 THEREUPON came,

4                               **A N N   D I C K S ,**

5 who, having been first duly sworn/affirmed, testified as  
6 follows:

7                   **WITNESS:** My name is Ann Dicks. I stay at 314  
8 Jehossee Drive, Aiken, South Carolina.

9                   To the Chairman, to the other Commissioners, I  
10 stand here as a user of power from South Carolina  
11 Electric & Gas. And I would ask you to seriously  
12 consider denying this rate increase, for these  
13 reasons: In 2007, which was the Docket No. 2007-  
14 22-E, which was implemented in 2008, they received  
15 a 5.38 percent increase in electricity. Now  
16 they're coming back in 2010 and asking for 4.22  
17 percent over that increase.

18                   Now, the country has asked us to be  
19 conservationists, to conserve. So, if we as  
20 citizens are trying to conserve -- and what -- I  
21 mean, you aren't the only one that, you know,  
22 utility that I'm concerned about. But as citizens,  
23 and me in particular, we are trying to do this.  
24 For me, they say 78 degrees for your thermostat; I  
25 set mine at 80. And mind you, I'm uncomfortable

1           when it's over 70. So, I would say that everybody  
2           is asking of us, the citizens, for an increase, and  
3           increase.

4           In this area, there are a lot of retirees,  
5           there are a lot of elderly, and there are a lot of  
6           people out of jobs. I think that if South Carolina  
7           Electric & Gas shareholders -- and I wasn't able to  
8           get your annual 2009 report to see what your profit  
9           was -- but if your shareholders are getting a 2 to  
10          5 percent increase, they are doing better than most  
11          of us, because those on fixed incomes haven't  
12          gotten any for the last couple of years. I'm  
13          retired. Flat salary.

14          So, I think that you need to consider, as we  
15          are trying to conserve, then the company needs to  
16          try to conserve. And what you need to take into  
17          effect is, as we conserve, that means that our  
18          usage is going to go down, so you're going to have  
19          to go back to the board and strategize how you are  
20          going to pay for costs when people are using less  
21          energy, because that is what we're doing, and that  
22          is a survival mode. That's not a luxury mode; that  
23          is a survival mode.

24          And in this area, you know, people are on  
25          fixed incomes, reduced incomes, and some have no

1 income whatsoever, particularly for the elderly,  
2 you know, when that becomes a significant part of  
3 their monthly budget.

4 So, I would suggest that you would seriously  
5 consider denying this increase. And as I said, I  
6 was told that it was a 9.5 percent increase that  
7 they were asking for. And I just think that that  
8 amount is just too much of a burden to put upon the  
9 citizens of this County and the citizens of this  
10 State. So, in your deliberation, please consider  
11 the citizens of this State. Thank you.

12 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Thank you, Ms. Dicks. Just  
13 a minute, let's see if there are any questions.

14 **MR. BURGESS:** No questions, Madam Chair.

15 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right.

16 **MS. EDWARDS:** No questions.

17 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** And Commissioners?

18 [No response]

19 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right, you may be  
20 seated.

21 [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

22 **MR. BUTLER:** I'll call Kathryn Hilton.  
23 Kathryn Hilton, please?

24 [Witness sworn/affirmed]

25 <

1 THEREUPON came,

2 KATHRYN HILTON,

3 who, having been first duly sworn/affirmed, testified as  
4 follows:

5 WITNESS: I'm Kathryn Hilton, 1747 Ridgecrest  
6 Avenue, Southwest, Aiken, South Carolina.

7 Thank you all for receiving my comments today.  
8 I greatly appreciate this opportunity. I want to  
9 start again by reiterating what Ms. Dicks said,  
10 that there are a lot of people in South Carolina  
11 who are on fixed incomes and cannot afford this  
12 rate increase. Also in reference to that, I have a  
13 serious issue with the fact that residential  
14 ratepayers are going to face greater increases than  
15 the industrial sector, when it's my understanding  
16 that the industrial sector is using a larger  
17 portion of the electricity provided by SCE&G.

18 On another front, it's also my understanding  
19 that the rate increase is to fund environmental  
20 controls for two coal-fired power plants operated  
21 by SCE&G. I don't believe that it's my  
22 responsibility as a ratepayer to pay for the  
23 irresponsibility of SCE&G in providing us with this  
24 destructive source of power. I understand that  
25 these are federally mandated regulations that have



1 to be put into place, but I don't think that,  
2 again, it's my responsibility as a ratepayer to  
3 have to incur the costs of making this -- making a  
4 false -- it's my belief that even with the  
5 scrubbers that will be added to the coal-fired  
6 power plants, which is supposed to help clean it  
7 up, it really doesn't because it just forms  
8 particulate matter that has to be dumped, and that,  
9 you know, increases arsenic contamination, water,  
10 and et cetera, et cetera.

11 I think that SCE&G is being irresponsible with  
12 this rate increase, and it's time for the Public  
13 Service Commission to make them step up as a  
14 company, as our providers for electricity, and move  
15 towards something better. I would be okay with a  
16 rate increase if it was going to fund maybe  
17 infrastructure for clean energy, like renewables  
18 that we have in South Carolina that would help  
19 increase our energy independence, but I'm not okay  
20 with having to pay these rate increases so that  
21 SCE&G can continue to provide us power with dirty  
22 energy sources, because all that is doing in the  
23 long run is hurting South Carolina. There is no  
24 real positive outcome out of that.

25 And I really hope that as the Public Service

1 Commission, you all will do the responsible thing  
2 and deny the request from SCE&G to make this rate  
3 increase. I guess I'm finished.

4 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Okay. Thank you, Ms.  
5 Hilton. Are there any questions?

6 **MR. BURGESS:** No questions.

7 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right.

8 **MS. EDWARDS:** No questions.

9 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Commissioners?

10 [No response]

11 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** No questions. You may step  
12 down.

13 **WITNESS:** Thank you.

14 [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

15 **MR. BUTLER:** I'd like to call Lam Le. Lam Le,  
16 please.

17 [Witness sworn/affirmed]

18 THEREUPON came,

19 **L A M L E ,**

20 who, having been first duly sworn/affirmed, testified as  
21 follows:

22 **WITNESS:** Hello, my name is Lam Le. I live at  
23 10 Inverness Street, West, Aiken, South Carolina.

24 I really appreciate the time you are taking  
25 out to listen to what I have to say today. I am a

1 student at the University of South Carolina/Aiken,  
2 and I currently live at home with my mother. And  
3 we use energy-efficient light bulbs, we turn off  
4 our lights when we're not in the room, I unplug  
5 appliances when I'm not using them, and still our  
6 electrical bill is through the roof. So, I'm  
7 really curious about how high these bills are for  
8 people who don't do that, because most people don't  
9 conserve as much as my mother and I do.

10 And I think that most customers of SCE&G  
11 oppose this rate increase, because we simply can't  
12 afford it. SCE&G says that they postponed this  
13 rate increase by a year because of the dire economy  
14 of 2009, but we are less than halfway through 2010,  
15 and the economy still isn't recovered. And I think  
16 that SCE&G should, you know, take responsibility  
17 for taking care of the customers, because I know  
18 that they know that a lot of us cannot afford this  
19 rate increase, even if it is phased in through  
20 several months.

21 And, you know, SCE&G has already been approved  
22 for a 2 percent rate increase every year for the  
23 next decade to pay for this \$10 billion nuclear  
24 reactor at V.C. Summer. And on top of that,  
25 they're asking to raise their rates even more. I

1 understand that SCE&G says that it needs to raise  
2 an extra billion dollars from ratepayers to pay  
3 for, you know, mandated environmental upgrades to  
4 its coal-fired power plants, but we all should have  
5 a right to live in clean, healthy, and sustainable  
6 communities, and SCE&G should make a bigger effort  
7 in supporting renewables, safe energies, that would  
8 make us energy independent rather than relying on  
9 old, dirty, finite energy resources.

10 And decision-makers that support questionable  
11 practices must be scrutinized in order for the  
12 public to be properly protected, and I'm not just  
13 talking about protection from paying so much for  
14 our energy, but also for our health, because, you  
15 know, dirty energies are really, really bad for our  
16 health, our environment, and I really believe that  
17 SCE&G should not be given this rate increase that  
18 they are proposing.

19 So, I think that's all I have to say right  
20 now. I really thank you for your time, again.

21 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Thank you. Are there any  
22 questions?

23 **MR. BURGESS:** No questions.

24 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right.

25 **MS. EDWARDS:** No questions.

1                   **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Commissioners?

2                               [No response]

3                   **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. You may sit  
4 down. Thank you.

5                   **WITNESS:** Thank you.

6                               [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

7                   **MR. BUTLER:** I'd like to call Joel Johnson.  
8 Joel Johnson, please?

9                               [Witness sworn/affirmed]

10 THEREUPON came,

11                               **J O E L   J O H N S O N ,**

12 who, having been first duly sworn/affirmed, testified as  
13 follows:

14                   **WITNESS:** My name is Joel Johnson. My address  
15 is 3048 Hackamore Drive, in Warrentonville, South  
16 Carolina.

17                   Before I begin, I want to thank you for  
18 letting me speak here. All of you people here need  
19 to contact Roland Smith, and contact him to start  
20 to get rid of the Base Load Review Act. That's a  
21 South Carolina law that has nothing to do with  
22 these people. Wal-Mart does not raise their rates  
23 to build a new Wal-Mart. Everybody sees that.  
24 McDonald's doesn't raise their rates to build a new  
25 McDonald's.

1           The part that I'm confused about is, in 2003,  
2           my wife and I designed a highly energy-efficient  
3           house, about 4,800-4,900 square feet, two stories.  
4           And I put that house on compass points and made it  
5           the most energy-efficient house that you could  
6           build at that time. Windows, extra insulation,  
7           facing south, big windows, overhangs, put in a  
8           geothermal heating and cooling system. My heating  
9           and cooling system was advertised to cool and heat  
10          my house for about \$600 a year. Because of that, I  
11          got an energy conservation rate from SCE&G, which  
12          I'm sorry a lot of people don't have it. My rate  
13          for my electric bill was to be about \$600 a year to  
14          heat and cool the house.

15          In that period of time -- I also have three  
16          stepdaughters and a wife who use hair dryers and  
17          everything else, which caused the electric bill to  
18          go up. But, if I could produce this into evidence  
19          for you [indicating], in January '04, there's a  
20          basic facilities charge of \$7.50 that SCE&G  
21          charged. On January '8, they increased that to  
22          \$7.73 and on February '08, they increased that to  
23          \$8. Now, that might not sound like much, but  
24          that's \$.50 for doing nothing. That's a 6.67  
25          increase in your electric bill for just adding a

1           little dot onto the computer.

2           In 2004, in January, my rate was .078 for up  
3           to 800 hours. In 11/04, it was .08, an increase of  
4           3.13 percent. In 11/05, it increased -- I'm sorry,  
5           excuse me. 11/04, it increased 1.8 percent; 11/05,  
6           it went up another 7.6 percent; 11/06, it went up  
7           another 3.02 percent; 11/07, it went up 1.38  
8           percent; 11/08 it went up 13.6 percent; 11/09, it  
9           went up 4.38 percent. That's only up to 800  
10          kilowatt-hours. The inflation rate during that  
11          time has averaged for '04 3.13, 3.46, 1.97, 4.31,  
12          1.07, and 1.84.

13          The cumulative increase in my bill from  
14          January of '04 until November '09 is 35.796  
15          percent, and after 800 kilowatts, it is 46.43  
16          percent. Everybody here is experiencing that.  
17          They're going to experience it even more.  
18          Inflation in that same period of time averaged  
19          16.81 percent.

20          In 2007, I bought an office, or building to  
21          convert into an office for myself. I made it even  
22          more energy efficient than my home: geothermal  
23          heating and cooling system, spray foam insulation,  
24          sky tubes in the ceilings. My bills have averaged  
25          less than \$27. Basically, I'm doing what I'm

1           supposed to do to save energy. Everything I do to  
2           save money gets taken away by those people. And I  
3           don't remember what July '08 was like when it was  
4           87 or 90 degrees back two years ago. Energy comes  
5           and goes, you know. But going forward, it's taking  
6           your money from you, ongoing, constantly, always.  
7           Any questions?

8           **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Are there any questions?

9           **MR. BURGESS:** We have no questions.

10          **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right.

11          **MS. EDWARDS:** No questions, thank you.

12          **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Commissioners?

13                   [No response]

14          **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** You would like to enter  
15          that into the evidence of the case? That will be  
16          entered into the evidence as Hearing Exhibit No.  
17          10.

18                   [WHEREUPON, Hearing Exhibit No. 10 was  
19                   marked and received in evidence.]

20          **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Thank you. You may be  
21          seated.

22          **WITNESS:** Thank you.

23                   [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

24          **MR. BUTLER:** I'd like to call Stephen Donohue.  
25          Stephen Donohue, please.



[Witness sworn/affirmed]

THEREUPON came,

**S T E P H E N   P .   D O N O H U E ,**

who, having been first duly sworn/affirmed, testified as follows:

**WITNESS:** I'm Steve Donohue, and I live at 316 East Shoreline Drive, in North Augusta.

Madam Chairman and Commissioners, South Carolina Electric & Gas, and the Regulatory Staff, I don't have prepared remarks. I do have a question, though, for SCE&G. Could you tell me what 50 kilowatt-hours would cost a ratepayer?

**MR. BURGESS:** Mr. Donohue, we've got folks who would be more than happy to answer your questions after the proceeding is over or after you're finished giving your remarks. We have customer service representatives in the hallway.

**WITNESS:** Thank you, sir. That was one of my concerns about the hearing. I find it a little odd that lawyers show up as opposed to people who know the company. No offense, sir. But, if you're going to be able to ask a question, you ought to be able to have somebody here who can answer it instead of laymen, because it was relevant to my query. So, I would think in the future, the

1           company ought to have somebody at the table there  
2           to answer a question, rather than make objections.

3           **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Mr. Donohue, this is like a  
4           regular hearing, like a courtroom hearing, and we  
5           have certain rules and procedures that we have to  
6           follow. But I understand that SCE&G does have  
7           staff who can --

8           **WITNESS:** Well, let me ask it to the staff  
9           now. Are they here?

10          **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Well, you can go outside  
11          and ask them, but what we can do right now is hear  
12          what your comments are.

13          **WITNESS:** Okay. I thought I heard you could  
14          ask a question. I assumed that was of a party. I  
15          thought I heard that.

16          **MR. BUTLER:** No, sir.

17          **WITNESS:** Did I misunderstand?

18          **MR. BUTLER:** Yes, sir.

19          **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** If you have questions --

20          **WITNESS:** If I misunderstood --

21          **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** -- after the hearing.

22          **WITNESS:** -- forgive me. Forgive me.

23          **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** You can do it after the  
24          hearing. They'll be available.

25          **WITNESS:** Okay. Well, can anybody tell me if

1           this -- could I ask the Regulatory Staff, is this a  
2           vertically integrated company?

3           **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** After the hearing, they can  
4           answer your questions.

5           **WITNESS:** Okay. I just would like to enter an  
6           objection. I think in the future you ought to have  
7           a party here that could answer questions, because  
8           when people show up, most of us as ratepayers, I  
9           don't know the ins and outs. You all do. You've  
10          been to many, many hearings. This is probably our  
11          first hearing, and as you just enumerated the  
12          rules, this is our only shot.

13          **COMMISSIONER WRIGHT:** Madam Chairman?

14          **WITNESS:** So, I think it could be improved  
15          upon.

16          **COMMISSIONER WRIGHT:** Madam Chairman?

17          **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Yes, Commissioner Wright.

18          **COMMISSIONER WRIGHT:** Maybe a possible  
19          solution, if he could reserve his right to come  
20          back before us, maybe he could go outside and get  
21          his question answered -- as it applied to what you  
22          were going to say -- and then we would just let you  
23          come back up. Would that be acceptable?

24          **WITNESS:** I would appreciate that.

25          **COMMISSIONER WRIGHT:** Is that -- would that be

1 acceptable?

2 **MR. BURGESS:** That's fine with us, Madam  
3 Chairman.

4 **MS. EDWARDS:** Yes, Madam Chairman, we would  
5 likewise echo that we do have representatives here  
6 who would be happy to answer your questions.

7 **WITNESS:** Thank you. The only question I have  
8 -- just to put it for -- I guess it would be a  
9 rhetorical question, since no one can answer  
10 questions here, so I'll make it a rhetorical  
11 question. Is SCE&G, rhetorically speaking,  
12 required to get competitive bids outside for energy  
13 as opposed to building plants? Are they required  
14 to do that analysis? A rhetorical question,  
15 obviously.

16 I won't ask them what the rate is for 500  
17 kilowatt-hours because it's relevant to a chart I  
18 had as to average national energy costs.

19 Another rhetorical question I have, since no  
20 one answers questions, is, I think there is a  
21 stair-step rate -- I think the first 800 kilowatt-  
22 hours -- don't anybody answer the question.

23 [Laughter]

24 **WITNESS:** It sounds like the first 800  
25 kilowatt-hours is a certain rate, and then it goes

1 up from there. I would think that the Commission  
2 would explore and maybe the Regulatory Staff could  
3 explore a super-low rate, figure out what maybe it  
4 takes a 1,000 square feet or a mobile home or  
5 something like that, air conditioning in the summer  
6 with a fairly efficient air conditioner, and I  
7 almost think that rate ought to stay flat or maybe  
8 even go negative. And then the rest of the people  
9 -- and I would include myself in this, because I  
10 live in a larger home -- make up the difference in  
11 that rate in the next 800 kilowatts, whatever the  
12 next jump up, so maybe my rate would go up on the  
13 next 800 kilowatts, but the first set would remain  
14 flat or even go negative -- would be a good idea.

15 I thank you for your time, and I wonder if I  
16 should answer any questions if you have any, since  
17 the rules seem to be you all don't answer  
18 questions.

19 [Laughter]

20 **WITNESS:** I'm a little concerned about the  
21 format. But, here I am.

22 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. Do you all have  
23 any questions?

24 **MR. BURGESS:** No questions, Madam Chairman.

25 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Okay. ORS?

1                   **MS. EDWARDS:** No sir, but I will be outside if  
2                   you need to talk.

3                   **WITNESS:** Thank you, very much.

4                   **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Commissioners?

5                                   [No response]

6                                   **EXAMINATION**

7 **BY CHAIRMAN FLEMING:**

8 **Q**     I have a question.

9 **A**     Yes, ma'am.

10 **Q**    So, what you were saying is that you would appreciate  
11           like a conservation rate, an incentive to be  
12           conservative in your energy use?

13 **A**    I would like for people who -- and I'm not in this  
14           category; I mean, I'm concerned about it, and I heard  
15           the State Representative -- that there ought to be given  
16           to retirees, or take the standard person, flat income,  
17           that you could figure out what does it take to air-  
18           condition say 1,000 feet or 2,000 square feet, and  
19           otherwise run a normal home that's not got holes in the  
20           rafters and all that. I'll make up a number. Let's say  
21           it takes a 1,000 kilowatt-hours a month, especially in  
22           the summer. South Carolina's summers would be the  
23           equivalent to Northeast winters. I mean, you could kill  
24           people in South Carolina with the heat if they don't  
25           have air conditioning. And in my view, the rate ought

1 to be either flat or even negative. Then the next 1,000  
2 kilowatt-hours, maybe you double up that rate, so in the  
3 end the overall effect on the graph would be you'd get  
4 the same point and recover that cost so that they could  
5 -- I don't want them to lose money. I want them to stay  
6 in business. I'm not here to badmouth SCE&G. But, you  
7 ought to explore rates like that, so that people here in  
8 the audience who are of lower incomes and living in  
9 their houses, and they don't want to sell or move, or  
10 whatever like that, could stay there and not be forced  
11 out by higher rates. That's my idea.

12 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Okay. Thank you.

13 **WITNESS:** Thank you, very much, for your time.

14 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** And if you --

15 **WITNESS:** I will go out and --

16 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** If you have any --

17 **WITNESS:** -- see if they're answering  
18 questions outside.

19 [Laughter]

20 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right.

21 [WHEREUPON, the witness stood aside.]

22 **MR. BUTLER:** I'd like to call Evans Daggett,  
23 please. Evans Daggett?

24 [No response]

25 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Is Mr. Daggett here this

1 evening?

2 [No response]

3 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. Well, I think  
4 we have some more people who signed up.

5 **MR. BUTLER:** Yes, we have. Okay. What about  
6 Dedra Wiegand? Dedra Wiegand?

7 [Witness sworn/affirmed]

8 THEREUPON came,

9 **D E D R A W I E G A N D ,**

10 who, having been first duly sworn/affirmed, testified as  
11 follows:

12 **WITNESS:** My name is Dedra Wiegand, and I live  
13 at 223 Hopeland Farm Drive, in Aiken, South  
14 Carolina.

15 I did not prepare anything. I just wanted to  
16 come and just give my opinion as a homeowner and a  
17 customer of SCE&G, that I agree with a lot of  
18 these men -- especially this gentleman here  
19 [indicating]. My -- our -- we've lived in this  
20 house for 12 years now -- well, will soon be in a  
21 few weeks -- and our SCE&G bill has doubled. We  
22 roast in the summertime, we freeze in the  
23 wintertime. We keep our -- like some of these have  
24 said, we can't afford to be comfortable in our  
25 house. I mean, I did not get a raise, an increase



1           this year. My husband did not get a raise increase  
2           this year, but yet everything is going up. We just  
3           got a rate increase, which has nothing to do with  
4           this, but with water. Now, this is wanting to  
5           increase.

6           I mean, we try very hard to be conservative  
7           with, you know, turning off lights. Like I said,  
8           we don't bump the thermostat up and down. And as  
9           everyone else, I'm concerned, because, you know,  
10          money can only go so far, and we do have to make  
11          our house payment. That's the first and foremost  
12          thing. We don't have a choice of going with a  
13          different company than them. We're stuck with  
14          them. I'm not saying -- but we have no choice when  
15          it comes to those things. You know, we're just  
16          stuck. Whatever you say, that's what we pay.

17          And I am not one person that doesn't pay my  
18          bill. My bill is on time every month. We have had  
19          some issues before -- I know you're not here to  
20          listen to all those personal things, but one month  
21          we got a bill for \$350 and at that time our bill  
22          was only \$120 every month. And that's because we  
23          don't move our thermostat, so we pretty much --  
24          except for August and February, it's the same all  
25          the time. \$350 light bill comes, or gas bill

1 combined. I call them up and say -- no, actually  
2 it was zero. It was like \$2.35 the first month.

3 I call them, like, "Something's wrong here."  
4 They're like, "Oh, well, you got a bill that was  
5 \$2.35." I'm like, "Uh, excuse me, but it should be  
6 more like \$120. There's something wrong." "Well,  
7 just pay the \$2.35." I'm like, "Okay." So, I put  
8 my money aside, because I'm like, something is  
9 going to happen here. Well, next month I got a  
10 \$350 bill. I called up and I said -- something had  
11 come up, and I had to -- you know, I had used a  
12 little bit of the money, not all of it. But, I'm  
13 like, "\$350, can I pay you this month's bill and  
14 then a little bit for that and then next month pay  
15 the rest off?" "Oh, no, you've got to pay it all or  
16 we're shutting off your electricity." There ain't  
17 no giving. I mean, "You either pay every bit to  
18 the penny, or we're cutting off your electricity,"  
19 and I'm like, "Wait a minute." At that point my  
20 children were small. I'm like, "You know, I pay  
21 every month. I don't come to you begging for a  
22 hand-out. I don't come in late. And you're  
23 telling me that you can't let me pay this month's  
24 bill and half of that or three-fourths of that and  
25 then pay you the rest next month?" "Oh, no, we

1 will come and shut your power off."

2 That's the only time I've ever had an issue,  
3 and that's just not right. That's not right,  
4 especially if you pay on time and you have no  
5 issues. But yet, they want an increase. That's  
6 all I have to say.

7 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. Wait just a  
8 minute. Are there any questions?

9 **MR. BURGESS:** No questions.

10 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right.

11 **MS. EDWARDS:** Madam Chair, I do have one  
12 question, if I may.

13 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Yes.

14 **CROSS EXAMINATION**

15 **BY MS. EDWARDS:**

16 **Q** When did this occur, the situation where --

17 **A** This happened a few years back.

18 **Q** Okay.

19 **A** It wasn't yesterday. We've been in this house, like I  
20 said 12 years. It was probably about five or six years  
21 ago, and I just think that that's uncalled for.

22 **MS. EDWARDS:** Thank you, very much.

23 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Just a minute. Are there  
24 any questions from Commissioners? Yes,  
25 Commissioner Whitfield.

1                   **COMMISSIONER WHITFIELD:** Thank you, Madam  
2                   Chairman.

3                   **EXAMINATION**

4                   **BY COMMISSIONER WHITFIELD:**

5                   **Q** I want to follow up on what Ms. Edwards just asked you.  
6                   That was couple of years ago. Was that a winter month?  
7                   Do you know what month that was?

8                   **A** It was a hot month.

9                   **Q** A summer month, okay.

10                  **A** Yes.

11                  **Q** And -- go ahead.

12                  **A** Yeah, and it was just, you know, whenever we got the  
13                  \$350 bill -- I stay at home unless I'm at a doctor's  
14                  office with my child or taking one to and from school.  
15                  They said, when I got a \$350 bill, they were like,  
16                  "Well, we had to come out and change your meter," and  
17                  I'm like, "When did you change my meter?" Well, they  
18                  couldn't give me a date. I'm like, "Well, I think I  
19                  would have known when you changed my meter." I mean,  
20                  it's attached to my house. So, I don't know what  
21                  happened. I can't tell you that -- I saw no tracks in  
22                  my yard. We've got bushes there. Nothing -- I mean,  
23                  there was no evidence that anybody had come and replaced  
24                  the meter, but they said that they had, and that was the  
25                  issue.

1   **Q**   What was your other -- prior to that, you said your  
2       bill --

3   **A**   \$120.

4   **Q**   -- had been \$120, but you said you were allowed to pay a  
5       lesser amount of that?

6   **A**   No, no, they wouldn't allow me -- oh, they made me pay a  
7       lesser amount because when my bill came, it was like  
8       \$2.35, and I'm just being -- I'm not being -- I don't  
9       remember exactly, but it was under \$5, and they were  
10      like, "Just pay that." I'm like, "Well, I don't have a  
11      problem paying that, but I know that's not my bill, I  
12      know that's not what we used. We live here." And the  
13      very next month when it doubled, they wanted it all at  
14      one time with no -- you know, "No, you can't give us,  
15      you know, like \$125 for this month and half of what the  
16      other is." It had to be the whole \$350 or they would  
17      shut off our electricity.

18                   **COMMISSIONER WHITFIELD:** Thank you, Ms.  
19                   Wiegand. That's all I have.

20                   **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Okay. You may step down.

21                   **WITNESS:** Thank you.

22                               [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

23                   **MR. BUTLER:** Okay, I'll call one more time for  
24                   Mr. Evans Daggett? Is Mr. Daggett here? Come  
25                   forward, please, sir.

1 [Witness affirmed]

2 THEREUPON came,

3 E V A N S D A G G E T T ,

4 who, having first duly affirmed, testified as follows:

5 WITNESS: Good evening, gentlemen.

6 CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Good evening.

7 WITNESS: Ladies. I am Evans Daggett. I live  
8 in Aiken, South Carolina.

9 I have a question that the Commission should  
10 consider when they set this new rate. I have asked  
11 the people at the power company approximately what  
12 percentage of the fuel used in their generation is  
13 natural gas. It's about one-fourth. So, about  
14 one-fourth of their fuel cost is natural gas. If  
15 you check the price of natural gas since 2008, you  
16 will find the cost today is about one-third of what  
17 it was in 2008. It's been a continual decline.

18 I've noticed that the people who understand  
19 these rates say that probably it's not as low as  
20 it's going to go, but it's probably there. So to  
21 me, that means that the power company has been  
22 using cheaper and cheaper fuel, they've been  
23 charging the same rates; therefore, their profits  
24 must be greater. If this is the case, you have to  
25 decide if these profits were justified, in my view.

1           So I'm asking the Commission to look at the  
2           situation, and I would appreciate it if they did.

3           Do you have any questions?

4           **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Do you have any questions?

5           **MR. BURGESS:** No questions.

6           **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Okay. Ms. Edwards?

7           **MS. EDWARDS:** No questions. Thank you, sir.

8           **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Commissioners?

9           [No response]

10          **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Thank you.

11          **WITNESS:** Thank you for the opportunity.

12          **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Uh-huh.

13          [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

14          **MR. BUTLER:** I'd like to call Al Frison,  
15          please. Al Frison?

16          [Witness sworn/affirmed]

17          THEREUPON came,

18                   **A L    F R I S O N ,**

19          who, having been first duly sworn/affirmed, testified as  
20          follows:

21                  **WITNESS:** Good afternoon. My name is Al  
22                  Frison. It's going to take me a minute to relax.  
23                  I do have sort of like questions, but you say you  
24                  don't have to answer them, but they're questions  
25                  that probably need to be addressed or taken into

1 consideration.

2 We have a voice, but do we have a choice, is  
3 what I want you to understand. Will this  
4 inevitable rate increase -- will you make solar or  
5 wind power more affordable for the citizens you  
6 serve?

7 Would more subcontracting to regional or local  
8 companies help with the cost of serving your  
9 customers?

10 During a natural disaster, do other power  
11 companies lend a hand, and if we have -- in other  
12 words, if the other companies from other -- like  
13 Duke Power -- if they come and lend a hand, they  
14 have to bring manpower, and is that cost tacked  
15 onto the citizens that you serve? Is it tacked  
16 onto their bill? And vice versa, if SCE&G has to  
17 go out-of-state -- and they say -- I guess it's  
18 volunteer, because it's a natural disaster -- is  
19 that cost going on down to the customers? What I'm  
20 talking about is the man-hours. If it's volunteer,  
21 somebody has to get paid for leaving their home to  
22 go do what they have to do.

23 Another thing I would like to suggest is that  
24 some things, and like most of -- most people are on  
25 a sixth-grade reading level. That's about average.



1           So, what I'm asking is that if you send information  
2           out to your citizens, I mean, to your customers,  
3           make it bold, friendly, simple, and something that  
4           they can use, that they can understand, like  
5           reading the meter. Since the new meters have been  
6           put in, when I go out there, I see a light  
7           blinking, and I don't know what it's doing. The  
8           old meters you could kind of see what's going on.

9           And I really don't -- I didn't quite get it  
10          where -- I had a \$40 bill, and the only thing that  
11          was on in that unit was a refrigerator, okay? And  
12          that refrigerator is one of the main household  
13          appliances. And if it's \$40 just alone, just  
14          sitting there with nothing in it, I'm kind of  
15          concerned about a normal household living where  
16          you've got the TV, you've got hairdryers, you've  
17          got all kinds of stuff going on, and if it's just  
18          \$40 for that one refrigerator, I guess we need to  
19          kind of look into you sending your customers --  
20          SCE&G sending your customers a program that allow  
21          them not -- allow them regular appliances, like  
22          refrigerators and stuff like that. Gas is just  
23          simply too expensive, in my opinion. I've had  
24          tenants to have -- their gas bill is more -- is  
25          higher than their electric bill. So, I suggest,

1 "Look, let's get you a space heater and turn your  
2 gas off," and they was able to survive.

3 And another thing I want to know is, is it  
4 legal for a water company to send its citizens a  
5 bill for streetlights? It's something that you  
6 need to look into. I live in Clearwater, and we  
7 are being charged for streetlights. Now, when I  
8 called SCE&G, they said it was private information.  
9 And this is not a subdivision; this is a community.  
10 And I have some concern about that.

11 And another thing is, when a customer pays a  
12 deposit, shouldn't they receive their full deposit  
13 after the final bill has been paid; and if you do  
14 it different, are you saying that "I got your money  
15 and I'm going to do it the way that I want to do  
16 it"? I had -- okay. I had a problem with somebody  
17 taking my deposit and giving me a credit for it,  
18 instead of letting me pay the final bill and send  
19 my deposit back fully in the mail. That's what I  
20 had a problem with.

21 Other than that, I just want you to understand  
22 that if you're going to go up on the rates, give  
23 the citizens an opportunity to either save money,  
24 okay, or give them the appliance to help them save  
25 money. I'm for nuclear energy. I'm for clean

1 energy. I'm for innovations. And I don't want to  
2 be in a situation where it's like, "We're going to  
3 do what we're going to do regardless of what you  
4 say." And I know that that's pretty much how  
5 America feels right now, and that's why I'm here  
6 tonight just to say that: Think about us. That's  
7 it.

8 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Okay, thank you. Do you  
9 have any questions?

10 **MR. BURGESS:** No questions.

11 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. Ms. Edwards?

12 **MS. EDWARDS:** Yes, Madam Chair.

13 **CROSS EXAMINATION**

14 **BY MS. EDWARDS:**

15 **Q** Mr. Frison -- is that correct?

16 **A** Frison.

17 **Q** Mr. Frison, you mentioned that you are billed for street  
18 lighting?

19 **A** Yes, ma'am.

20 **Q** Would you be willing to see Mr. Campbell as soon as you  
21 finish any questions that the Commissioners may have?

22 **A** Yes, ma'am.

23 **MS. EDWARDS:** Thank you.

24 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Commissioners, are there  
25 any questions?

[No response]

**CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** No questions?

**EXAMINATION**

**BY CHAIRMAN FLEMING:**

**Q** I wanted to -- I understand Ms. Edwards is going to follow through, but you're saying that the charge for the streetlight was on your water bill?

**A** Yes, ma'am.

**Q** Okay. And the deposit, are you saying that rather than refunding you the deposit, they deducted that from the final bill?

**A** What they did was took that -- a portion of that deposit and put it on another account, and I didn't appreciate that.

**Q** Oh, so they applied it to another account that you had.

**A** Right. In other words, when you pay a deposit, you don't pay with credit; you pay with money. Cash, credit cards, whatever you pay. And so if you get a final bill, the guy comes out and reads it and you get a bill in the mail, "When you pay that bill, we'll send your deposit back." The same deposit, whether it be \$750 or \$150 that you sent in, you get back. Every penny of it.

**Q** And that didn't happen for you?

**A** It didn't happen, and it's almost like, "We have your money and we're going to do what we want to do."

1     **Q**     Okay.

2     **A**     And are we really customers when we don't have any other  
3             choice? I like SCE&G. I like planners, or rural  
4             electric companies. SCE&G is something like Georgia  
5             Power. I think they're caring people. And I was  
6             surprised to get that kind of taste from SCE&G. Not  
7             shocked, but you know, a little surprised.

8     **Q**     And you don't have this bill available that shows this?

9     **A**     I could find it.

10            **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Okay. If you would like to  
11            enter that into the evidence of the case and send  
12            that to -- see Ms. Wheat afterwards, she can  
13            arrange to enter that, and that would be entered  
14            into the evidence of the case as Hearing Exhibit  
15            No. 11.

16            **WITNESS:** Also, if there's a grandfather  
17            clause about streetlights, that's something I need  
18            to know.

19            **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Well, you can talk with Ms.  
20            Edwards afterwards about that. All right, thank  
21            you. You may sit down.

22                    [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

23            **MR. BUTLER:** I'd like to call Teresa Arnold.  
24            Teresa Arnold, please.

25                    [Witness sworn/affirmed]

1 THEREUPON came,

2 T E R E S A A R N O L D ,

3 who, having been first duly sworn/affirmed, testified as  
4 follows:

5 WITNESS: My name is Teresa Arnold, and my  
6 address is 238 Cedar Falls Drive, Blythewood, South  
7 Carolina, so I drove from Columbia to talk tonight,  
8 okay?

9 Actually, I come here because I am the  
10 legislative director for AARP, and we have a little  
11 over 1/2 million members in South Carolina, and I  
12 don't know if you've noticed but we have asked our  
13 members to let their concerns be known.

14 One of the things I looked at before I sent  
15 our letter of concern and protest about this rate  
16 hike was I looked at the most recent data about the  
17 per capita income for South Carolina. It's 47th.  
18 It's the 47th lowest per capita income in the  
19 nation. That was in 2007. I imagine it's worse  
20 now. It used to be 39th, so we're going in the  
21 wrong direction.

22 We have 700,000 people in South Carolina on  
23 Social Security. They did not get a COLA this  
24 year, a cost-of-living increase. About a third of  
25 those people, possibly more, only receive Social

1 Security. And so those people are hurting, and I  
2 get calls from them all the time. I get calls from  
3 80-year-old women who live by themselves and have  
4 to shut themselves in one room and can't heat the  
5 rest of their house. I get a lot of calls, so I  
6 understand what it's like for folks. Also, the  
7 fact that SCE&G customers currently pay \$118 for  
8 1,000 kilowatt-hours -- or that's the information  
9 that I've gotten, the most recent information that  
10 I've gotten -- and in comparison, Duke Power  
11 customers pay \$93 for 1,000 kilowatt-hours,  
12 following their recent rate increase.

13 I guess my point with all of this information  
14 is to say that SCE&G wants a rate increase -- and I  
15 understand that they may have negotiated a lower  
16 rate increase with ORS. I don't know too much  
17 about that. Even the lower rate increase would  
18 give them investment income, or interest rate, of  
19 10.6 percent I think, 10.7 percent. When people  
20 are not -- I mean, you're talking about -- they're  
21 just asking for a reduction in the amount of the  
22 increase that they want, and people here are not  
23 having any increase or either they're having their  
24 budgets cut. So, what we at AARP -- our message  
25 is, this is not the time for a rate increase. We

ask you to delay this decision.

I'm really happy to see so many people here. I think this is a wonderful part of the civic process. We will continue to encourage our AARP members to be a part of this process and to remind them that the Public Service Commission serves the public, and this is the public that is struggling right now. And so we ask your consideration for denying this rate increase. And thank you, very much.

**CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Thank you. If you could wait just a minute. Are there any questions?

**MR. BURGESS:** No questions, Madam Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Ms. Edwards?

**MS. EDWARDS:** No, Madam Chair. But for purposes of the record, I would like to clarify something that was addressed. We did enter into a stipulation on three points in this case, but we do not -- the Office of Regulatory Staff does not have an agreement with SCE&G regarding a revenue requirement. And you mentioned -- I believe you said the words that we have an agreement on a rate increase. We have not reached an agreement with South Carolina Electric & Gas on a revenue requirement.



1                   Thank you, Madam Chair. I just wanted that  
2                   clarified for the record.

3                   **WITNESS:** And I appreciate that. I think it  
4                   was the way it was worded actually on the radio as  
5                   I was coming down today, so I'm sorry that I  
6                   misstated that.

7                   **MS. EDWARDS:** No, and if you have any  
8                   questions or if anybody else has, we would be happy  
9                   to discuss that issue. Thank you.

10                  **WITNESS:** Thank you, very much.

11                  **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Okay. Commissioners?

12                               [No response]

13                  **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. Thank you. You  
14                  may sit down.

15                               [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

16                  **MR. BUTLER:** I'll call on Christeen Murphy.  
17                  Christeen Murphy, please?

18                               [Witness sworn/affirmed]

19       THEREUPON came,

20                               **C H R I S T E E N   M U R R A Y ,**  
21       who, having been first duly sworn/affirmed, testified as  
22       follows:

23                   **WITNESS:** Hi, my name is Christeen Murray, and  
24                   I live at 222 Cherokee Street, and that's in Aiken,  
25                   South Carolina, Southeast.

1           And I was here to address the rate issue,  
2           because I have been doing things to my house to  
3           keep my light bill down, and the more I do, the  
4           more my light bill gets higher. I don't know  
5           whether it's because of the size of your house, but  
6           when I'm only one person that stay there and I  
7           close off the vents in the other rooms that I don't  
8           occupy, but yet and still my light bill never go  
9           under \$300 and \$400 a month.

10           I have medicine to buy, insulin, \$93 to get  
11           that. It's just ridiculous. And every month, you  
12           can't ever say you're going to -- can't say you  
13           ain't going to pay your light bill because if you  
14           don't pay it, you're going to be in the dark. So,  
15           I just came to the meeting. I had my house -- I  
16           had windows put in the house this year, insulation  
17           put back in, new doors and everything. And my  
18           light bill hasn't went down at all. I don't know  
19           whether they go by the size of the house, not  
20           knowing who stay in it, you know, but I do know  
21           that my bill hasn't went down at all, out of all  
22           the money that I have spent trying to keep energy  
23           low. I don't go up and down on the thermostat.  
24           When it goes off at a certain time, it comes on a  
25           certain time. I sweat like a dog at night because

1 I don't cut on the air conditioning till a certain  
2 time, and I just sweat. My bed gets wet when I get  
3 up, from the perspiration. And I'm just running a  
4 fan. I put a fan in there. I keep the air on 79.  
5 And how can you live like that? And they still  
6 going up on the rent -- I mean, on the electric  
7 bill, and we just -- we as poor people just cannot  
8 do it.

9 And I'm asking you all to have consideration  
10 for us, the ones that don't have the money, the  
11 ones that are living on a short income, the ones  
12 that don't have a job, that you all just have mercy  
13 on us about the rate increase. Anybody got any  
14 questions?

15 **MR. BURGESS:** No questions of Ms. Murray.

16 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Okay. Ms. Edwards?

17 **MS. EDWARDS:** No questions. Thank you.

18 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Commissioners?

19 [No response]

20 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. You may be  
21 seated. Thank you.

22 **WITNESS:** Thank you.

23 [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

24 **MR. BUTLER:** I'd like to call Jessy Hardy.  
25 Jessy Hardy, please.

[Witness sworn/affirmed]

THEREUPON came,

**J E S S Y   H A R D Y ,**

who, having been first duly sworn/affirmed, testified as follows:

**WITNESS:** My name is Jessy Hardy, and I live on 356 Bethlehem Circle, Graniteville, South Carolina, and I am a --

**CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Could you come a little closer to the mike, or could we turn the volume up a little bit?

**WITNESS:** Is this better?

**CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Yes.

**WITNESS:** I speak softly. I'm sorry. I'm just a resident and I'm taking advantage of my right to be heard, and I appreciate this opportunity.

I'm a full-time student at USC/A, and I'm currently struggling with bills, books, parking fees, everything. And I can't -- we can't do a rate increase in the light bill at this time. I'm struggling now, and I just -- I hate to think what it would be like then. It scares me really bad. I want to be able to pay bills, and I'm trying to actually make it so I can get a house-house, and

1           it's just -- it's really a bad time right now.

2           I agree with the previous people who have come  
3           up. The economy is -- it's just really unstable at  
4           this point in time, and I'm struggling trying to  
5           find a job. Right now I'm on benefits, and that is  
6           how I pay the bills, and it's just never enough.  
7           It's just not. And I just -- I think it's  
8           important that I come up here and that I say that.  
9           And I represent those people who can't really make  
10          it, with the potential increase that will be taking  
11          place.

12          That's all that I really have to say. It  
13          would just be very hard. Very hard. That's all I  
14          have.

15          **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Okay. Thank you. Just a  
16          minute, and let's see if there are any questions.

17          **MR. BURGESS:** No questions of Ms. Hardy.

18          **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. Ms. Edwards?

19          **MS. EDWARDS:** No questions. Thank you.

20          **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Commissioners?

21                 [No response]

22          **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. You may be  
23          seated. Thank you for coming.

24                 [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

25          **MR. BUTLER:** Elaine Cooper? Calling Elaine

1 Cooper?

2 [Witness sworn/affirmed]

3 THEREUPON came,

4 E L A I N E C O O P E R,

5 who, having been first duly sworn/affirmed, testified as  
6 follows:

7 WITNESS: Elaine Cooper from Columbia, South  
8 Carolina.

9 Okay, you'll have to excuse the accent, but  
10 I've lived here for about 31 years. I'm a State  
11 employee, for now. Probably I will be let go next  
12 week. So 31 years, I'm about to be an AARP person  
13 who is about to retire. So I'm very, very  
14 interested, because soon I'll only be living on one  
15 salary and will join the multitudes of people in  
16 South Carolina my age -- about 56 years old -- that  
17 are slashed in their jobs across South Carolina, no  
18 matter if you're a State employee or you work for  
19 another company or you work for SCE&G.

20 So, I'd like to talk to you about one concern  
21 I have, which is on top of this current request,  
22 SCE&G has just informed the South Carolina Public  
23 Service Commission that another rate hike request  
24 will come soon, this time for the risky nuclear  
25 reaction project.

1 I will now go over some points -- and I can  
2 submit this, too, as evidence. The rate hike for  
3 the nuclear power plants may go on top of the  
4 current rate hike, thus meaning more money out of  
5 your pocket. So, number two, you are forced to pay  
6 up for a decade in advance for the nuclear reactor  
7 project that might not be finished for a decade or  
8 more. This project could cost from \$12 to \$20  
9 billion -- \$12 to \$20 billion -- for SCE&G and  
10 Santee Cooper customers.

11 SCE&G has already proposed a series of annual  
12 rate hikes over the next decade to pay in advance  
13 for the reactors, but can go back to the PSC,  
14 Public Service Commission, at any time for a  
15 nuclear rate increase.

16 There is no long-term plan to deal with the  
17 deadly radioactive spent fuel which would come from  
18 the reactors and would likely stay in South  
19 Carolina for decades. As you know, Yucca Mountain  
20 is not taking our nuclear waste, and it's piling up  
21 here. More importantly, the nuclear reactor design  
22 chosen by SCE&G, the Westinghouse AP1000, does not  
23 have a license from the Nuclear Regulatory  
24 Commission.

25 So anyway, I'm standing here, I had to put my

1 jacket on as I walked in, which I notice all of you  
2 are sitting here comfortably, while we listen to  
3 people here tonight who are talking to you about  
4 sweating. Right now we cannot even take a simple  
5 step in conserving energy. It's easy to sit there  
6 feeling quite cool with your jackets on and then we  
7 have to crank up the temperature because you're  
8 wearing your jackets. Just consider all of the  
9 unemployed folks and soon-to-be unemployed people  
10 in South Carolina, with the rising number, that are  
11 paying for these nuclear power plants. They may  
12 not even be alive to even benefit from when they  
13 will be paid, perhaps 10 years or 20 years or more  
14 from now.

15 Thank you. Do you have any questions?

16 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Do you have any questions?

17 **MR. BURGESS:** We have no questions for Ms.

18 Cooper.

19 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Okay. Ms. Edwards?

20 **MS. EDWARDS:** No, ma'am.

21 **WITNESS:** Okay. Can I submit this?

22 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Yes.

23 **WITNESS:** Thank you.

24 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** We need to show it to the  
25 parties.



1 [Document distributed to parties]

2 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Ms. Cooper, could we get  
3 your address please?

4 **WITNESS:** Okay. It's 3105 Dalloz. D-a-l-l-o-  
5 z Road, Columbia, South Carolina 29204. Thanks.

6 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Just a minute.

7 **WITNESS:** I wrote it in the form, too.

8 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Okay. Right.

9 Commissioners, do you have any questions?

10 [No response]

11 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. We're entering  
12 this into the evidence of the case. This  
13 information is Hearing Exhibit No. 12.

14 [WHEREUPON, Hearing Exhibit No. 12 was  
15 marked and received in evidence.]

16 **MR. BUTLER:** I'd like to call Jermel Daniels.  
17 Jermel Daniels, please.

18 [Witness sworn/affirmed]

19 THEREUPON came,

20 **J E R M E L D A N I E L S ,**  
21 who, having been first duly sworn/affirmed, testified as  
22 follows:

23 **WITNESS:** My name is Jermel Daniels. My  
24 address is 124 Keisha Avenue, Saluda, South  
25 Carolina.

1           The only thing I would like to say is I think  
2           it's ridiculous for my light bill to be higher than  
3           my rent. I stay in a two-bedroom trailer in a  
4           trailer park alone, by myself, and I pay \$400 a  
5           month. I've been staying there ever since the  
6           middle of January, and ever since I have been  
7           staying there I've been paying like \$420, \$430 once  
8           a month for my light bill, and I'm the only one  
9           that stay there in a two-bedroom trailer. I think  
10          it's just ridiculous for them to overcharge me when  
11          I'm paying a light bill more than you pay to live.  
12          That's all I would like to say.

13           **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. Mr. Burgess?

14           **MR. BURGESS:** No questions, Madam Chairman.

15           **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. Ms. Edwards?

16           **MS. EDWARDS:** No questions.

17           **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Commissioners?

18                   [No response]

19           **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** No questions. You may sit  
20          down.

21                   [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

22           **MR. BUTLER:** I'd like to call Wade Fulmer.  
23          Wade Fulmer, please?

24                   [Witness sworn/affirmed]

25          <

1 THEREUPON came,

2 W A D E F U L M E R ,

3 who, having been first duly sworn/affirmed, testified as  
4 follows:

5 WITNESS: My name is Wade Fulmer. I live in  
6 Columbia, and I have a home in Graniteville.

7 I grew up here and I'm familiar with the  
8 people who have lost so many jobs already because  
9 the textile industry lost the textiles after the  
10 chemical spill just a few years ago, and we've got  
11 the economic situation that we have now.

12 And recently *The State* had an article in the  
13 newspaper. It talked about how South Carolina has  
14 never made the elderly a priority as far as taking  
15 care of them, and them having what they need as far  
16 as health care. In this case, as far as what they  
17 need to pay bills for hikes that are not needed,  
18 hikes that are solely for profits, hikes that are  
19 solely for chief executives -- what, millions of  
20 dollars each year go to the chief executives? How  
21 much does Lindsey Graham get? You can't answer  
22 that question. Well, a lot, because that's your  
23 favorite congressman, senator, as I understand it.

24 But, so given the state of the economy, the  
25 elderly and the people that have spoken who need

1 medicines, and we're talking about advancing money  
2 to a company to develop two more nuclear plants on  
3 top of the rate hike that we're talking about  
4 today. I don't understand that. I understand --  
5 I'm sure it's very difficult sitting on a  
6 commission trying to make the right decisions.  
7 I've worked for the Department of Mental Health and  
8 DHEC, and I've sat in such hearings as we're having  
9 today, and I've been one of those people over here  
10 or over here [indicating] who have been told what  
11 to do.

12 If you can't come into a hearing, can't get  
13 answers to questions, but you can go out in the  
14 hall and you can ask a question and hopefully get  
15 an answer, why is that? Because you don't want  
16 everybody to hear the answer that's not really an  
17 answer. It's another excuse for higher rates, for  
18 ignoring people in an economy like this. I have to  
19 say that I have no confidence in the process.  
20 Whatever your conscience allows you to do in your  
21 positions because you were told to do that is  
22 totally different than caring about the people  
23 you're supposed to be serving.

24 Now, the commissions that I have witnessed  
25 before unfortunately tended to go along with

1           whatever the State agency, or in this case the  
2           monopoly power broker, is. You have that pressure  
3           on you, I'm convinced, to do that. So you make the  
4           right decision and you go with the people, and you  
5           don't allow this investment increasing profits, a  
6           company looking out for their investors instead of  
7           their consumers.

8                     In the agencies that I've worked for, I've  
9           asked the question many times, I've said, "Well,  
10          why aren't we -- who is our customer?" And too  
11          often the answer has been, from the executives,  
12          "Our customer is the middleman." It's not the end  
13          user who is suffering because they can't pay for  
14          their medication or can't pay their electric bills  
15          and can't stay cool at night. It's not the  
16          ultimate customer that's lost their job or their  
17          families have lost their employment. It's not the  
18          ultimate customer whose jobs have gone abroad, not  
19          just because of national policies, but because  
20          State representatives have not accurately  
21          represented us in those ways to keep the jobs at  
22          home.

23                    So, I bring it down to a matter of conscience,  
24          knowing that you're always going to be asking for  
25          another rate increase; and in a time like this,

1           again, with the economy, you're asking to pay bills  
2           for something that hasn't even been approved,  
3           you're asking to go up 9.5 percent.

4           The last thing I'll say is it reminds me of  
5           what happened in California about a month ago when  
6           the insurance companies said that they were going  
7           to go up 39 percent on health insurance policies.  
8           Well, the public rose up. And the public needs to  
9           rise up now. There are so many things in this  
10          State -- I was born here, but I am yet ashamed of  
11          this State in the way they treat their citizens.

12          **VOICE:** Amen.

13          **WITNESS:** But in California, just last week,  
14          "Oh, we made an accounting error. We're not going  
15          to need to go up 39 percent, not even close to  
16          that." It was because the people spoke up.

17          And I ask you to listen to the people for a  
18          change. Not that you've gone along with exactly  
19          what they wanted every time, but for a change. In  
20          this economy, for the health, both mental and  
21          physical of these people who are going to have to  
22          pay this increase in rates, go to your conscience,  
23          go to your spirit, look for those opportunities  
24          that we have to invest in other sources of energy  
25          and not just continue the profiteering. Thank you,

1 very much.

2 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Thank you. Are there any  
3 questions?

4 [Applause]

5 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Please, I know you feel  
6 very strongly about this, but please just refrain  
7 from clapping and cheering. Ms. Edwards?

8 **MS. EDWARDS:** No questions. Thank you.

9 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. Commissioners?

10 [No response]

11 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. You may sit  
12 down. Thank you.

13 [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

14 **MR. BUTLER:** I'd like to call Dwight Smith.  
15 Dwight Smith, please?

16 [Witness sworn/affirmed]

17 THEREUPON came,

18 **D W I G H T S M I T H ,**

19 who, having been first duly sworn/affirmed, testified as  
20 follows:

21 **WITNESS:** My name is Dwight Smith. I live at  
22 262 Hillman Street, in Gloverville, South Carolina  
23 -- I'm sorry, the address is Warrenville, but we  
24 call it Gloverville.

25 First of all, I'd like to thank you for the

1 opportunity to speak to you. Second of all, I'd  
2 like to thank Representative Smith for being here  
3 to speak earlier for the folks in our area. I am  
4 disappointed that this room is not full of people.  
5 For the past two weeks I've been encouraging people  
6 to come and speak, say, show solidarity towards  
7 what our needs are.

8 I have a question, and I know we're not  
9 supposed to ask, but I've had this asked of me  
10 several times in my conversations with people. How  
11 is the Public Service Commission selected? Is that  
12 off the record to answer that? I could not answer  
13 it, and I apologize for asking this. Could you  
14 answer that?

15 **MS. EDWARDS:** Madam Chair, I'd be happy to  
16 respond here, at this time, or if you would prefer  
17 I can certainly speak to this gentleman later, at  
18 your discretion.

19 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Let's -- if you could ask  
20 them after the hearing.

21 **WITNESS:** Okay.

22 [Laughter]

23 **WITNESS:** Well, if you're elected, that's one  
24 thing. If you're appointed, that's another. And  
25 if you're appointed, I challenge each and every one



1 of you in here to speak to your local legislative  
2 representatives and ask them why they are not here.  
3 They should be here representing us who are  
4 struggling out here. I too will be unemployed the  
5 1st of June. My job is out, as well. But that's  
6 okay. I can handle it. I can handle the increase.  
7 But where I live, people are living in homes that  
8 were built in the '40s, the '50s. They have no  
9 insulation in them, they have windowpanes or  
10 windows that are not the new, modern, energy  
11 efficient and so forth. I have friends who  
12 literally hang blankets up on their doorways in the  
13 winter to keep the heat in a certain area of their  
14 home, and the same in the summer during the hot  
15 months. They pray for these moderate temperature  
16 months that we do have.

17 Number two, next on my list, SCE&G, I read  
18 recently has the highest kilowatt cost in South  
19 Carolina. Why? Why is there no competition? Why  
20 is their stockholders so much more important than  
21 Duke Power or some of the other utilities here?  
22 Why is this so high that they have to be?

23 I recently read in the paper that this  
24 increase was needed to do new transmission lines,  
25 trim limbs, run new gas, and to increase

1 stockholder dividends. You know, I've got a little  
2 money invested and I do want to see my money grow  
3 and I'm sure the stockholders of SCE&G does as  
4 well, but there's a point to where you've got to  
5 look at whom you're serving and what's going on.  
6 And these people need some help. The majority of  
7 the elderly in our area, in the Valley area, need  
8 help. They don't need this increase.

9 As I go back to what I said earlier, for the  
10 past two weeks I really have been trying to get  
11 friends to come and folk I know that are not  
12 outspoken. They really struggle every month, and I  
13 hear stories -- in fact, this morning at our little  
14 breakfast group we were talking and they said, "You  
15 know, I pay more for my power bill than I do for my  
16 house payment." And that is -- that's kind of  
17 skewed. And some of these homes, we're not talking  
18 about rich people; we're talking about menial  
19 people trying to live on retirement checks. I have  
20 an elderly friend that comes, and I take him to  
21 breakfast a couple times a month, and he has  
22 melanoma in his leg. He's had a lot of medication  
23 -- or, medical work on his leg, but the one thing  
24 he was telling me the other day, he said "Dwight,"  
25 he said, "medication the doctor give me costs me

1           \$100 a month to have it filled." He said "I can't  
2           do it." He said, "If I do, I can't pay my power  
3           bill. If I pay my power bill and the medicine, I  
4           can't buy food."

5           **VOICE:** That's right.

6           **WITNESS:** That's the reality of the people  
7           that we're serving here. I really want to end this  
8           by saying, the people in Horse Creek Valley, a lot  
9           of them, especially on the Graniteville end, are  
10          not here tonight, because they have no confidence  
11          in you. And I don't mean that as an attack; I mean  
12          that as the truth. Show, do, act.

13          As far as power, I am a proponent of nuclear  
14          power. I think that is the way of the future.  
15          France has been doing it for years and years. I'm  
16          a little familiar with it, and I know that it can  
17          be done, and it can be run and if it's run  
18          correctly, it is safe. Now, there are some issues,  
19          as the lady said, about the waste problem.

20          But make the right decision. You've got a  
21          tough one. You've got a tough one. You've been  
22          all over the State. People have talked to you.  
23          People have said things to you. You've heard  
24          everything.

25          I appreciate your patience, and I appreciate

1 the opportunity for me to speak to you. But make  
2 the decision based on who you are supposed to be  
3 representing, not SCE&G. And I am not against  
4 SCE&G; I just am against this large of an increase.  
5 Thank you.

6 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Thank you. Mr. Burgess?

7 **MR. BURGESS:** No questions, Madam Chairman.

8 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. Ms. Edwards?

9 **MS. EDWARDS:** No questions.

10 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Commissioners? Just a  
11 minute.

12 **WITNESS:** I'm sorry.

13 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Commissioners?

14 [No response]

15 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. You may be  
16 seated.

17 **WITNESS:** Thank you.

18 [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

19 **MR. BUTLER:** Madam Chairman, Mr. Smith was the  
20 last one on our list, but I think we promised Mr.  
21 Stephen Donohue another opportunity if he wanted to  
22 be heard any further. Mr. Donohue?

23 THEREUPON came,

24 **S T E P H E N P. D O N O H U E ,**  
25 who, having been previously duly sworn/affirmed, testified as

1 follows:

2           **WITNESS:** Well, thank you for bending the  
3 rules a little bit, especially Commissioner Wright  
4 for doing that. I appreciate that.

5           I did go outside, and surprisingly, SCE&G  
6 didn't have a rate chart, which I find a little  
7 odd. But, they were -- I did ask them what would  
8 500 kilowatts cost, and I made a back-of-an-  
9 envelope kind of calculation, and they came up with  
10 \$63. So, let's assume that's the answer. I'd like  
11 to submit into evidence as next in order a chart I  
12 just pulled off the Internet, the Public Utility  
13 Commission of Texas publishes it. They have the US  
14 average and they have Louisiana, Minnesota,  
15 Colorado. Their 500 kilowatt average in the United  
16 States -- this is as of March 2010, so I think  
17 that's pretty accurate -- is \$54. So that's about,  
18 what, 10, 15 percent less than what we have now,  
19 and we're here discussing a rate increase. So, if  
20 I could offer that next in order. Who do you want  
21 me to hand it to, Madam Chairman?

22           **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** To Mr. Richardson.

23           [Document distributed to parties]

24           **WITNESS:** And last --

25           **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Okay, go ahead.

1                   **WITNESS:** Yes, ma'am?

2                   **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** I'll ask you later.

3                   **WITNESS:** I had one other document I'd like to  
4 admit as an exhibit, next in order, and it's a  
5 policy paper, *The Case for Competitive Procurement*  
6 *in States with Vertically-Integrated Utilities*, and  
7 basically -- and it's just only four pages, not  
8 long. I hope you'll take a chance to read it.  
9 Basically, the argument of this is -- and they may  
10 have an ax to grind, I'm not sure. It's published  
11 by the Electric Power Supply Association, and their  
12 argument is that public utilities commissions --  
13 that when you have vertically integrated utilities,  
14 you ought to force them to competitively bid their  
15 source of power, whether they're getting natural  
16 gas or juice from another part of the grid, before  
17 they go in and build a new power plant and make the  
18 ratepayers pay for it. I'd like to admit that as  
19 the next in order.

20                  **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. Mr. Richardson?

21                               [Document distributed to parties]

22                  **WITNESS:** And lastly, I know it's a cliché  
23 now, thinking out of the box. But, I really think  
24 the Commission should consider a subsistence rate  
25 for ratepayers. I even think you could be heroes.

1           Roll back the rate a little bit, roll it back 10  
2           percent. Maybe you could base it on people who  
3           file South Carolina income tax; if they're below a  
4           certain income level, their rate is -- and base it  
5           on a standard size, it could be a mobile home,  
6           instead of, you know, the subsistence rate is \$100,  
7           and make up the rest of it on people who are using  
8           more electricity, pull that rate up. It's kind of  
9           like they did with the Part E of Medicare, where  
10          they have a doughnut and they just have some other  
11          -- they have some other public rates that are set  
12          to allow for subsistence.

13                I do want this company to succeed. I don't  
14          want them to go bankrupt. I do want a fair rate of  
15          return. I know there are a lot of hard luck  
16          stories out there, but I urge this Commission to  
17          think outside the normal rate increases and think  
18          about a subsistence rate and some way that people  
19          could qualify for it. And I thank you for your  
20          time, and thank you for letting me come back.

21                **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Thank you.

22                **WITNESS:** Okay.

23                **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** And let's see if there are  
24          any questions. Any questions?

25                **MR. BURGESS:** No questions, Madam Chair.

1                   **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. Ms. Edwards?

2                   **MS. EDWARDS:** No questions.

3                   **EXAMINATION**

4 **BY CHAIRMAN FLEMING:**

5 **Q** I just wanted to ask you for clarification.

6 **A** Yes, ma'am.

7 **Q** You said that the information you're putting into the  
8 record said that for 500 kilowatts, is that correct,  
9 it's \$54 --

10 **A** Yes, ma'am. For 500 kilowatts, the US average is  
11 \$54.65.

12 **Q** Okay.

13 **A** That's March of 2010.

14 **Q** And what was the figure that you gave for SCE&G?

15 **A** They told me \$63 outside. Again, it was back-of-an-  
16 envelope because no one had a chart.

17 **Q** Okay.

18 **A** I would think the company would -- you know, I want you  
19 guys to succeed, and I know you can't answer questions  
20 at that table. But out back there, they could answer  
21 that kind of question, you'd think. But you know what?  
22 Shame on me, too, because I should've done my research  
23 before I got here. I should've looked it up on the  
24 Internet. I didn't. I thought I could get it. So,  
25 shame on me as well; I'm not excusing myself either.



1                   **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Okay. After the hearing,  
2                   they are available for questions, though. They'll  
3                   both be available.

4                   **WITNESS:** Okay. Thank you, ma'am. I  
5                   appreciate it.

6                   **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. And we will  
7                   enter this information into the evidence of the  
8                   case as Hearing Exhibit No. 13.

9                               [WHEREUPON, Hearing Exhibit No. 13 was  
10                             marked and received in evidence.]

11                            [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

12                   **MR. BUTLER:** That completes everyone on the  
13                   list.

14                   **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** You want to see if there's  
15                   anyone else?

16                   **MR. BUTLER:** Okay. Madam Chairman, as I said,  
17                   that was everyone on the list. We might ask at  
18                   this time, is there anyone else in the audience who  
19                   wishes to be heard at this time? You want to come  
20                   forward please?

21                               [Witness sworn/affirmed]

22                   THEREUPON came,

23                               **S U S A N   C H R I S T Y ,**  
24                   who, having been first duly sworn/affirmed, testified as  
25                   follows:

1                   **WITNESS:** My name is Susan Christy. I live at  
2                   7 Running Ridge Drive, Trenton, South Carolina.

3                   The first thing that I'd like to say is, I  
4                   don't pay bills, I don't even have a job, but I  
5                   live with my parents. My mom is a diabetic. She  
6                   needs her medicine. She needs lances and  
7                   everything else that diabetics need. My dad might  
8                   have cancer.

9                   The economy is really bad. I agree with  
10                  everyone that has said something here. We don't  
11                  need the rate increase at all. It's a bad time  
12                  right now in America, in the State of South  
13                  Carolina. It's just a really, really bad time.  
14                  Any questions?

15                 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Mr. Burgess?

16                 **MR. BURGESS:** No questions, Madam Chair.

17                 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. Ms. Edwards?

18                 **MS. EDWARDS:** No questions. Thank you.

19                 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Commissioners?

20                         [No response]

21                 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. You may be  
22                 seated. Thank you.

23                         [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

24                 **MR. BUTLER:** Does anyone else wish to be heard  
25                 at this time? You want to come forward, please,

1 ma'am?

2 [Witness sworn/affirmed]

3 THEREUPON came,

4 O L G A B U T L E R ,

5 who, having been first duly sworn/affirmed, testified as  
6 follows:

7 WITNESS: Good evening. My name is Olga  
8 Butler. I stay at 2 Hope Lane, in Edgefield, South  
9 Carolina.

10 I just thank you for an opportunity to come  
11 before you and speak on behalf of all the single  
12 mothers. I'm a single mother of two. I'm on  
13 disability, and I really -- if it wasn't for the  
14 grace of God, I don't know how I would've made it  
15 this far with paying bills as a single parent. I  
16 really wish you would consider those that are  
17 bearing the burden of raising kids and trying to  
18 hold down a household, with this rate increase.  
19 And I just feel that it's very unnecessary.  
20 Because if I could work, I would, to try to keep up  
21 with the economy and all this, but I can't. And I  
22 just wish you would consider me, as a single  
23 parent. Any questions?

24 MR. BURGESS: No questions, Madam Chair.

25 CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Thank you. Ms. Edwards?

1                   **MS. EDWARDS:** No questions.

2                   **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Commissioners?

3                               [No response]

4                   **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** You may sit down. Thank  
5                   you.

6                               [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

7                   **MR. BUTLER:** Madam Chairman, I thought I saw  
8                   one more hand in the back. Two hands, okay. You  
9                   first, please?

10                              [Witness sworn/affirmed]

11                   THEREUPON came,

12                              **J E F F R E Y   K .   L E E ,**

13                   who, having been first duly sworn/affirmed, testified as  
14                   follows:

15                              **WITNESS:** Jeffrey K. Lee -- Jeffrey K. Lee,  
16                   1223 York Street, Northeast, Apartment 6-A, Aiken,  
17                   South Carolina.

18                   **MR. BUTLER:** One more time on the address.

19                   **WITNESS:** All right, that's --

20                   **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** I think if you'll stand  
21                   just a little bit away from --

22                   **WITNESS:** How's this?

23                   **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** That's --

24                   **WITNESS:** Oh, perfect. No, these are always  
25                   -- technology, it is what it is, as the cliché

1 goes. How's this, Chairman?

2 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** It's great.

3 **WITNESS:** All right. My name is Jeffrey Lee,  
4 1223 York Street, Northeast, Apartment 6-A.

5 **MR. BUTLER:** Which city?

6 **WITNESS:** Aiken. Okay. Well, I've been to  
7 other public service commissions before, not  
8 necessarily this type of issue. And I appreciate,  
9 once again, the ability for about four minutes now  
10 to let me speak. And a lot of times what I've  
11 noticed is, as well-meaning as everybody is both on  
12 the Commission, the company, and the public, things  
13 get lost in a lot of stories, things get lost in a  
14 lot of dialogue, and they all have a purpose.

15 And so I just wanted to basically vote my  
16 request for the proposed rate increase, but before  
17 I get to that, I do want to mention a couple of  
18 overall things. We've heard stories about, you  
19 know, the facts and figures. We've heard stories  
20 about the suffering people here in this auditorium.  
21 And if you want to extrapolate that on a larger  
22 scale, probably most of South Carolina, whether  
23 they be retired, whether it be a college student,  
24 or just a single mother with three to five kids --  
25 maybe less, who knows -- but the point is,

1           everybody has their stories, and everybody has  
2           their personal sufferings, and the vast majority is  
3           -- I think I can speak for most of this room -- is  
4           we are saying no -- that's right, no -- to a rate  
5           increase.

6           I'm not saying SCE&G is a bad guy. I'm sure  
7           they, with all, you know, dutifulness to their  
8           stockholders in the boardroom meetings, feel,  
9           "Okay, well, we have these two power plants coming  
10          up, so what can we do?" Well, then the answer is,  
11          "Well, let's see if we can try to get another rate  
12          increase." And, you know, that's business as  
13          usual. But what I would like to stress -- and  
14          please, please take this to heart -- is, you know,  
15          when you hear all these stories about people  
16          suffering -- like I say, I'm a college graduate. I  
17          went to USC/Aiken. I had a good job. I've had  
18          several jobs. Now, I don't mind saying, my average  
19          light bill, per se, which I'm not currently in debt  
20          to SCE&G about, I have gone through whole, you  
21          know, paying them as a customer should. I have  
22          been a great, you know, customer to them. My  
23          current bill, depending on my energy usage, is  
24          between \$60 and \$80. I try very hard just to do  
25          what I can, and surprise; it's \$60, but I know that

1           can't last forever. And that's not me using my  
2           central heat in my apartment, not me using the  
3           central air conditioning in my apartment, and then  
4           turn off all lights, making sure all the amenities  
5           are, you know, decent living. I'm not wealthy by  
6           any means, but what I am is I know what a good  
7           customer is about. And what the point of that is,  
8           how they can say, okay, here's somebody like me who  
9           is not with disabilities, who is not on a fixed  
10          income. I have a job. My apartment rent is  
11          currently \$535. That's priority. Of course, you  
12          have to have the electric bill, of course you have  
13          to have a water bill if that's applicable. But why  
14          not put things as a context, and I've worked very  
15          hard to get where I am at today, and I think most  
16          people in South Carolina don't want to think, "Oh,  
17          we're like dogs of the government," so -- I'm not  
18          trying to point at any sort of error or future  
19          scenarios, I'm just saying that in my particular  
20          place, you know, the business as usual or the oh-  
21          well attitude, you know, some people can take that  
22          oh-well attitude and say, "Well, we have people's  
23          stories who are suffering but yet, the end  
24          justifies the means." That doesn't always work.  
25          The oh-well attitude is not what's called for.

1           As one of our previous speakers said before,  
2           this is a time where you guys can truly exert your  
3           conscience. I pray that you will take all the  
4           available facts and figures and look at the  
5           decision and rule, not just whether or not it  
6           increases or not -- I pray that it doesn't -- I'm  
7           saying this is your time to truly shine and to  
8           actually do your conscience, whatever that may be,  
9           for or against the rate increase, but not just give  
10          in to a business-as-usual approach. That is all.  
11          And I say no.

12           **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. Just a minute.

13           **WITNESS:** Any questions?

14           **MR. BURGESS:** Madam Chairman, we have no  
15          questions.

16           **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. Ms. Edwards?

17           **MS. EDWARDS:** No questions. Thank you.

18           **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Commissioners?

19           [No response]

20           **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. You may be  
21          seated.

22           **WITNESS:** Thank you.

23           [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

24           **MR. BUTLER:** Would you come forward, please  
25          ma'am?



[Witness sworn/affirmed]

THEREUPON came,

**C O U R T N E Y B E L L ,**

who, having been first duly sworn/affirmed, testified as follows:

**WITNESS:** My name is Courtney Bell. I live at 1845 Hidden Hills Drive, North Augusta, South Carolina 29841.

I've been a homeowner now for about two years. Finished college this past year; I'm a special education teacher at Curtis Baptist High School. I only make probably about \$24,000 a year. I do not have health insurance. I do everything I can to cut down my power bill. What it was this -- let me find the numbers -- it's usually about \$223 to -- and then I completely turned off heat and air this past month to see what would happen, and I got around \$113, completely cold or completely hot, for my power and my gas together. And that was -- those numbers that they were looking at before -- 546 kilowatts was about an \$8 facilities charge, \$60.42 for the kilowatts, and \$3.42 for the franchise fee. So, \$71.84 for my actual power bill.

The only thing I have in my house would be the

1 lights, a TV, and a refrigerator. Everything is  
2 off from about 6 in the morning until 4 or 5  
3 o'clock in the afternoon when I get home from work  
4 with my husband, and that's what we would pay just  
5 for those hours after we work, for just lights and  
6 the refrigerator basically, and a TV -- not cable,  
7 just watching movies and things. We don't pay for  
8 cable. We don't pay for Internet.

9 So, right now at this time, that average  
10 beforehand probably was maybe using my air  
11 conditioner sometimes, and that would just be on a  
12 really hot day, \$200 a month would be about 10  
13 percent of my income and then on top of that I'm  
14 giving 10 percent to the government for my taxes,  
15 and they want to completely increase health  
16 insurance on taxes, and then they also want to make  
17 us pay for health insurance policies coming up that  
18 won't even be put into place for the next four  
19 years. But, everything is increasing. By the time  
20 I'm done, I'm going to -- you know, 30 to 50  
21 percent of my income, I don't get to spend it on  
22 food or basic things that we might need. No health  
23 insurance, nothing like that to take care of  
24 ourselves.

25 So, you know, everything is specifically on

1 the grace of God at this moment. So every night  
2 is, you know, prayer time. So I would like to say  
3 overall I'm kind of concerned about the country at  
4 the moment. I know that growing up and looking in  
5 the bookstores -- my husband works for Barnes &  
6 Noble -- the most popular game right now is  
7 Monopoly in all kinds of formats. Kids grow up  
8 playing that game. And it's fun as a board game,  
9 but it's not fun when you become a citizen and you  
10 grow up and you realize people are doing that to  
11 you, and you're the person who is taking out the  
12 second mortgage and flipping over the card, and  
13 things aren't working out, and you know you're  
14 going to lose. You're not the person who has all  
15 the money, you know, going around the board with  
16 all the property.

17 So, at this moment, I would say if this is  
18 just something that's being done because somebody  
19 wants to make more profit increase, because they  
20 want to buy -- they want to pay off that boat that  
21 they bought last year, then I definitely do not  
22 agree with it, because I can't afford it. And I'm  
23 just trying to pay for food and, eventually, health  
24 insurance and keep a house and maybe have kids if I  
25 can afford to do that and not put them in a bad

1 situation.

2 So, overall, this whole thing is a great  
3 opportunity. One of my biggest heroes would be  
4 Atticus Finch from *To Kill a Mockingbird*, as a  
5 lawyer, and, you know, this may not do anything but  
6 at least I want to say, you know, at least I tried  
7 and can live with myself. So, thank you for  
8 letting us talk and for hearing me.

9 CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Thank you, Ms. Bell. You  
10 have those bills, did you say?

11 WITNESS: I have this most recent bill.

12 CHAIRMAN FLEMING: But not the one before?

13 WITNESS: Not the actual bill, just the  
14 numbers at the top that say what I paid for the  
15 last two months.

16 CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Oh, okay. If you would  
17 like to enter that into the evidence of the case,  
18 you can talk to Ms. Wheat after the hearing.

19 WITNESS: Okay.

20 CHAIRMAN FLEMING: And we -- would you like to  
21 do that?

22 WITNESS: Yes, that would be fine.

23 CHAIRMAN FLEMING: That will be entered into  
24 the evidence of the case as Hearing Exhibit No. 14.

25 WITNESS: Okay.

1                   **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. Mr. Burgess, do  
2 you have any questions?

3                   **MR. BURGESS:** No, ma'am. No questions.

4                   **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. Ms. Edwards?

5                   **MS. EDWARDS:** No questions.

6                   **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Commissioners?

7                               [No response]

8                   **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. Thank you. You  
9 may be seated.

10                  **WITNESS:** Thank you.

11                               [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

12                  **MR. BUTLER:** Okay. Anyone else want to be  
13 heard?

14                  **VOICE:** Yes.

15                  **MR. BUTLER:** You want to come forward, please?

16                               [Witness sworn/affirmed]

17 THEREUPON came,

18                               **A N N   B E L L ,**

19 who, having been first duly sworn/affirmed, testified as  
20 follows:

21                  **WITNESS:** My name is Ann Bell, and I live at  
22 234-B Cherokee Street in Aiken, South Carolina.

23                  **MR. BUTLER:** What was your first name again?

24                  **WITNESS:** Ann Bell.

25                  **MR. BUTLER:** Ann Bell.

1                   **WITNESS:** Yes.

2                   **MR. BUTLER:** Thank you.

3                   **WITNESS:** Yes. And I have a question. On  
4 yesterday, they came to cut my lights off, but I  
5 had paid it on Tuesday. So, my nephew was at his  
6 house, so he called me on his cell phone and told  
7 me, said they're going to cut my lights off. So, I  
8 got a little upset. I said, "Well, I paid my bill  
9 on Tuesday," and they was going to cut my lights  
10 off on yesterday. So I said, "Well, I paid it,"  
11 so, I called Columbia, and I got it straightened  
12 out.

13                   And then another question I want to ask. Why  
14 is it if -- you pay your light bill and then  
15 they'll tell you, said, "Well, you got a certain  
16 time to pay this bill," and if you don't pay it in  
17 full then they'll cut your lights off and charge  
18 you an extra \$150. What is the extra \$150 for?  
19 SCE&G charge you that.

20                   **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** You can ask them that  
21 question after the hearing.

22                   **WITNESS:** Okay. Well, I just wanted to know.  
23 And another thing I need to ask -- okay. I don't  
24 cook at home. I eat at my daughter's house. I  
25 dare not cook at home because they charge me \$59,

1           and I don't even cook at home. So if I cook at  
2           home, I'm in trouble. That gas bill going to go  
3           up, and I can't afford it. And I'm self-employed.  
4           And it's hard out there when you're trying to  
5           scuffle and get a little work in here and yonder.  
6           And, you know, I get so upset, so, with the air  
7           conditioning, I better not use the air  
8           conditioning. I better hike some windows, because  
9           I'm in trouble. They're going to cut you off.

10           And today, we're here asking questions. Is it  
11           anything going to be done about this, or are we  
12           just asking out of the air? Is they going to do  
13           anything about it?

14           **VOICE:** They can't answer.

15           **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** If you can direct that  
16           question to Ms. Edwards after the meeting, that  
17           would be helpful.

18           **WITNESS:** Okay. Okay. Well --

19           **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Do you have anything else  
20           to say?

21           **WITNESS:** No. All I can say, we're just left  
22           in the hands of God, and by his grace I know he's  
23           going to make it. So, I would hope today you all  
24           would do something -- SCE&G -- about this high  
25           light bill, because the rates just going out the

1 window.

2 CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Okay. Just a minute.

3 WITNESS: Okay.

4 CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Do you have any questions,  
5 Mr. Burgess?

6 MR. BURGESS: No, ma'am. No questions.

7 CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Ms. Edwards?

8 WITNESS: They never have any questions,  
9 SCE&G.

10 CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Well, just a minute. Ms.  
11 Edwards?

12 MS. EDWARDS: Ma'am, I don't have a specific  
13 question for you, but I would like for you to talk  
14 to Mr. Chad Campbell outside, if you have the time.

15 WITNESS: Okay. I hope they do something.

16 CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Just a minute, ma'am.

17 WITNESS: Okay.

18 CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Commissioners, do you have  
19 questions?

20 [No response]

21 EXAMINATION

22 BY CHAIRMAN FLEMING:

23 Q I have a question --

24 A Okay.

25 Q -- for clarification. You paid your bill on Tuesday --



1     **A**     Yes.

2     **Q**     -- on time?

3     **A**     Yeah, I paid it on time.

4     **Q**     And they were, the next day, which would have been --

5     **A**     The guy came to cut my lights off, and I got upset about  
6             it. So, then I called Columbia and I asked them to  
7             please not cut my lights off. I paid the bill, and I  
8             had the receipt.

9     **Q**     Had they notified you ahead of time that they were going  
10            to cut your lights off?

11    **A**     No.

12                   **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. Thank you.

13                   **WITNESS:** Thank you.

14                   [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

15                   **MR. BUTLER:** Okay. Anyone else wish to be  
16            heard? Yes, sir.

17                   [Witness sworn/affirmed]

18    THEREUPON came,

19                   **P H I L I P   C O P E L A N D ,**

20    who, having been first duly sworn/affirmed, testified as  
21    follows:

22                   **WITNESS:** Well, just to start off --

23                   **MR. BUTLER:** Can we get your name and address,  
24            please, sir?

25                   **WITNESS:** Philip Copeland. I live at 408

1 Columbia Road, Edgefield, South Carolina.

2 To start off, I'm going to talk about what  
3 happened with my job. I work with an ambulance  
4 company. We lost our sick pay at the beginning of  
5 this year. And I have to work; for the last three  
6 days I have been sick going to work, dealing with  
7 sick people, and I'm actually going to have to call  
8 in tomorrow. I pay all my bills. I had to talk my  
9 wife into letting me come here.

10 And I just find it amazing that they need a  
11 rate increase. Just like my company, they told me  
12 they need to cut out sick pay. And the owners went  
13 to Greece for a month.

14 I don't know what they do with all the money  
15 that they get. I pay my bill on time. I pay  
16 \$10.50 for not using my gas, because I need it in  
17 the wintertime. I have to pay it every single  
18 month. That's a basic facilities charge. And, I'm  
19 just trying to find some way to save money. I just  
20 find it outrageous that they want to raise the  
21 rate. Any questions?

22 **MR. BURGESS:** Madam Chairman, we have no  
23 questions.

24 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. Ms. Edwards?

25 **MS. EDWARDS:** No questions.

1                   **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Commissioners?

2                               [No response]

3                   **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. You may sit  
4 down. Thank you.

5                               [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

6                   **MR. BUTLER:** Anyone else wish to be heard at  
7 this time?

8                   **VOICE:** I know I've already gone. I just  
9 have -- I know y'all can't answer questions, but  
10 I'd like to know who or what party I should address  
11 if I'm interested in becoming an intervenor.

12                   **MR. BUTLER:** I believe Ms. Edwards can help  
13 you with that issue. Thank you, very much. I see  
14 no one else, Madam Chairman.

15                   **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. Well, I want to  
16 thank all of you for being here tonight, and for  
17 those of you who spoke, we really appreciate that.  
18 You have been a very civil group tonight, and I can  
19 tell you as those of us who are sitting up here, we  
20 certainly appreciate your polite way of presenting  
21 the issues that you wanted to bring before us. And  
22 we certainly hope that if you can attend the  
23 hearing in Columbia, a lot of your questions could  
24 be answered during that hearing. I mean, you will  
25 hear a lot of this information that you had

1 questions about tonight.

2 We appreciate your being here, and this  
3 hearing is now adjourned.

4 [WHEREUPON, at 8:05 p.m., the hearing in  
5 the above-entitled matter was adjourned,  
6 to reconvene on Monday, May 24, 2010, at  
7 10:30 a.m., in Columbia, South Carolina.]

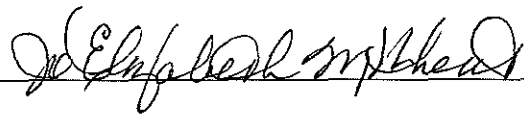
8  
9 [WHEREUPON, Hearing Exhibit No. 14 was  
10 marked and received in evidence.]

11  
12 [WHEREUPON, Hearing Exhibit No. 11 shall  
13 be marked and received in evidence upon  
14 receipt of same.]

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Jo Elizabeth M. Wheat, CVR-CM-GNSC, do hereby certify that the foregoing is, to the best of my skill and ability, a true and correct transcript of all the proceedings had and testimony adduced in an evening public hearing held in the above-captioned matter before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina;

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand on this the 18th day of May, 2010.

  
Jo Elizabeth M. Wheat, CVR-CM-GNSC

ATTEST:



Jocelyn G. Boyd

INTERIM CHIEF CLERK/ADMINISTRATOR

NIGHT HEARING/AIKEN - VOLUME 3

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA